



**CASTEISM RAMPANT
IN BJP-RULED STATES,
SAYS KHARGE** **NATION**



**KATRA BANDH ENTERS
SEVENTH DAY AS
IMPASSE PERSISTS** **J&K**



**APRIL-NOV FISCAL
DEFICIT AT 52.5%:
GOVT DATA BUSINESS**

**INDIAN-ORIGIN HEROES
ON KING CHARLES'
HONOURS LIST** **WORLD**



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WEDNESDAY | 1 JANUARY 2025

THE TRIBUNE WISHES ITS READERS A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Fireworks over the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge as part of the celebrations to usher in the New Year in Sydney. AP/PTI

Punjab extends winter break in schools till Jan 7

CHANDIGARH: In view of the cold weather, the Punjab Government has extended the winter vacation in government-aided, recognised and private schools across the state till January 7. Announcing this on his official X account, School Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said the decision was taken under the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, considering the prevailing cold weather conditions. All schools will reopen on January 8. — TNS

Quad vow to work towards free and stable Indo-Pacific

NEW DELHI: India and other Quad member nations on Tuesday reaffirmed the grouping's steadfast commitment to work towards a free, open and peaceful Indo-Pacific amid China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the region. The foreign ministers of the member nations of the grouping made the pledge in a joint statement commemorating the 20th anniversary of "Quad cooperation". India, the US, Australia and Japan came together 20 years ago to extend assistance in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, and that coalition subsequently took the form of the Quad. **BACK PAGE**

SGPC seeks judicial probe into killing of 3 youths in Pilibhit

AMRITSAR: The SGPC on Tuesday demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing of three Punjab youths in a police encounter in Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh. On December 23, a joint team of the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh police had killed the three suspected terrorists in an encounter. They were allegedly involved in a grenade attack on a police post in Gurdaspur. During a meeting, the SGPC passed a resolution, raising serious questions over the police encounter. "This is a serious matter and it seems like a deliberate act to target Punjab's youths," the resolution read. **INSIDE**

Let's forget & forgive: Manipur CM apologises for ethnic conflict

IMPHAL, DECEMBER 31 Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Tuesday apologised for the ethnic conflict in the state which has claimed over 250 lives and rendered thousands homeless since May 2023. He appealed to all communities to forget and forgive past mistakes and live together in a peaceful and prosperous state.

Addressing a press conference here, Singh said there had been relative peace in the state in the last three-four months, giving him hope that normalcy would be restored in the new year.

"I want to say sorry for what happened in the state. Many people lost their loved ones and many had to leave their homes. I regret and want to apologise. But after seeing relative peace in the last three-four months, I hope that normalcy will be restored in the coming year."

"Whatever happened has happened...I want to appeal to all communities to forgive and forget our past mistakes and start life afresh by living together in a peaceful and prosperous Manipur," he said.

Singh said firing incidents had declined in the state over the last 20 months since the ethnic conflict began in May 2023. "From May to October 2023, 408 firing incidents were reported. From November 2023 to April 2024, there were 345 firing incidents,



Manipur CM N Biren Singh addresses a press conference in Imphal. PTI

250 LIVES LOST IN VIOLENCE SINCE MAY 2023

More than 250 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023

STATE ACCOUNTED FOR 77% OF NE VIOLENCE

Manipur accounted for about 77 per cent of the total violence in the northeastern region in 2023, according to MHA. Among the 243 violent incidents that occurred in the North-East, 187 took place in Manipur

whereas from May this year till now, 112 firing incidents were reported," he said.

He said of all the looted weapons, 3,112 had been recovered and 2,511 explosives had been seized during the period. As many as 625 people had been arrested and 12,047 FIRs registered so far, he added.

More than 250 people had been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based

Kuki-Zo groups since May last year. The Chief Minister claimed that the state government was "tirelessly working to improve the law and order situation".

Meanwhile on Tuesday, a clash between women from the Kuki community and security personnel triggered fresh tensions in Kangpokpi district of Manipur. The locals were protesting against the "forceful occupation" of community bunkers by security personnel, claimed witnesses. — TNS/PTI

Dallewal to accept medical aid if Centre offers talks: Punjab to SC

Top court gives state govt two more days to implement its orders

SATYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31

The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted two more days to the Punjab Government to comply with its directions on shifting farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on a fast-unto-death since November 26, to a hospital.

"Taking into consideration the totality of circumstances and keeping the interest of justice in view, we are inclined to accept the request to afford some more time for compliance with the directions issued by this court," a Vacation Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia said, posting a contempt petition against the Punjab Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police for further hearing on January 2.

The order came after Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh submitted that negotiators had visited the protest site and efforts were made for implementing the court order by mobilising about 7,000 personnel. Due to the Punjab bandh called by farmers' organisations on Monday, there were traffic



Farm leaders with Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on a fast in Khanauri.

ATTEND NEXT HEARING TOO, CHIEF SECY, DGP TOLD

"If something happens which is acceptable to all sides, we are equally happy. As of now, we are only concerned with the compliance of our orders," Justice Surya Kant said

Punjab Chief Secretary KAP Sinha and DGP Gaurav Yadav, who were present during the virtual hearing, were asked to remain present on the next date of hearing on Thursday as well

blockades. "According to the negotiators, a proposal has been given by the farmers to the Centre that if they get an invite for talks, Dallewal is ready to take medical aid as desired," Gurminder Singh said, seeking three more days for compliance.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said he had no

instructions on the submissions made by the Punjab Advocate General.

Maintaining that he would not like to comment on the negotiations, Justice Kant said, "If something happens which is acceptable to all sides, we are equally happy. As of now, we are only concerned with the compliance

of our orders." Punjab Chief Secretary KAP Sinha and Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav, who were present during the virtual hearing, were asked to remain present on the next date of hearing on Thursday as well.

On December 28, the top court had warned Sinha and Yadav that it would frame charges of contempt of court against them if its order on shifting Dallewal to a hospital was not complied with. "It's a contempt case and the next step is known. Why shouldn't there be charges against the Chief Secretary and the DGP? Why should charges be not framed? This is the logical flow of a contempt matter," it had told the two senior officers.

Dallewal has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border between Punjab and Haryana since November 26 to press for the acceptance of farmers' demands.

Acting on a contempt petition filed by Labh Singh of Mohali, the top court had on December 27 issued a notice

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EDIT: LOOKING AHEAD

Sangh mindset: Kerala CM on Maha minister's 'mini Pakistan' remark

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC. 31

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday vehemently criticised Maharashtra Minister Nitesh Rane for calling Kerala a "mini Pakistan" and said his remarks were highly "provocative" and "condemnable".

"The Sangh Parivar's basic approach towards Kerala is exposed through the words of the Maharashtra minister," the CM said in a statement. "The Sangh Parivar believes it can isolate a place that's difficult for them to influence by alienating and spreading hate campaigns...amounts to insulting the Constitution."

Vijayan maintained that a minister who made the hate statement "did not deserve to continue in the position". "It is surprising that the leadership of the country's ruling party is yet to react to the min-

BARB INSULTS CONSTITUTION

"The Sangh Parivar believes it can isolate a place that's difficult for them to influence by alienating and spreading hate campaigns...amounts to insulting the Constitution." Pinarayi Vijayan, KERALA CM

ister's act of serious breach of oath, which amounted to insulting the country's Constitution," he said.

Later, in a post on X, the CM termed the Maharashtra minister's comment as "deeply malicious and utterly condemnable". Such rhetoric reflects the hate campaigns orchestrated by the Sangh Parivar against Kerala, a bastion of secularism and communal harmony, the CM said. "We strongly denounce this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

MEA promises to provide assistance to Kerala nurse facing execution in Yemen

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31

A day after Yemen President Rashad al-Alimi approved the execution of an Indian nurse convicted of murdering a Yemeni national in 2017, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday stepped in saying it would extend all possible help in the matter.

Randhir Jaiswal, MEA spokesperson, said the government was aware of Nimisha Priya's sentencing in Yemen. "We understand that Priya's family is exploring relevant options. The government is extending all possible help," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Hailing from Kollengode town in Kerala's Palakkad, Priya's execution is scheduled to take place within a month. Married with a daughter, she moved to Yemen in 2011 and there came in con-

tact with Yemeni national Talal Abdo Mahdi.

Priya's husband and minor daughter had to return to India in 2014 due to financial woes. The same year, Yemen was engulfed in civil war and the duo could not return as the country stopped issuing new visas.

As Yemen's law bars foreigners from starting their own businesses unless they have local partners, Mahdi is said to have helped Priya set up a clinic in capital city Sanaa.

In 2017, Priya was convicted of murdering Mahdi even as she called it "an act of self-defence". She alleged that Mahdi had been harassing her for money and had even seized her passport. She also alleged that he forged her documents to project himself as her husband while subjecting her to physical and emotional abuse.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Messiah for the missing: Cyber expert reunites families via digital footprint

Chandigarh-based Gurcharan Singh has traced hundreds of missing persons over past 16 years, all for free

JUPINDERJIT SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31 When a Class IX student went missing from a Jammu school, his family explored all avenues in a desperate attempt to trace him, but to no avail. Two months later, they approached Gurcharan Singh, a cybersecurity expert in Chandigarh, and within a short span, the boy was back with the family.

A member of cybersecurity faculty at the Central Detective Training Institute under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Gurcharan trains police officials in investigating online frauds. But his expertise lies in finding missing persons,

and he does it out of passion.

In 2008, Gurcharan stumbled upon his first case — a missing girl from Jhajjar — and since then has traced hundreds of such individuals, including children.

A messiah for missing persons, Gurcharan follows the digital footprint of his subjects to track them down. He has mastered the art of navigating through the murky waters of the digital landscape, using social media, online transactions, CCTVs, smart TVs and even GPS data as tools to zero in on the subjects.

Sharing his experiences in a video interview with *The Tribune*, Gurcharan, who hails from Yamunanagar in



Haryana, reveals how the Facebook account led him to the Jammu boy.

"To open a new account on the social media, one needs to be 18, have a phone and an

email ID, where the OTP is sent for verification. The boy lied about his age and created the account using his mother's phone. The family was kept in the dark. Once I

EVERYTHING IS TRACEABLE ONLINE

"Every click and every search creates a trace. The digital footprint on the 'cloud' is vital. In today's connected world, we have the tools — if we know where to look."

Gurcharan Singh, CYBERSECURITY EXPERT,
CENTRAL DETECTIVE TRAINING INSTITUTE, CHANDIGARH

found the account, I traced the last access. He had used the broadband connection of a popular dhaba in the heart of Amritsar. The boy, who was sent to a top school, was

found working as a waiter there," he shares.

The Jhajjar girl case, which was his first, turned out to be that of elopement. "Through the digital footprint, I could pinpoint her live location in a moving train. The police found her at the next railway station."

He recalls another case involving a prominent Gujarat doctor who had been missing for three months. "He was found in a meditation centre in Himachal. The digital footprint can't be erased," he asserts.

"Police from various states approach us. I have trained many cops who are doing a great job, but due to the pressure of probing other crimes, their priorities shift," he says.

"Families often approach self-styled godmen for help, but the scientific way of finding someone is through their digital footprint," he asserts.

"Every click and every search creates a trace. You can access the CCTV and even smart TV for leads," he says.

Gurcharan doesn't get paid for all the hard work, but the gratification, he says, is priceless. "I used to trace cyber frauds. And when I achieved some success, I thought of helping families in despair. Seeing them reunite with their loved ones is what drives me. That's why I do this. To see that joy, that relief — it makes it all worthwhile," he adds.

Police dept tops bribery cases in crackdown against corruption

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31
Of the 104 trap cases in 2024 where officials were caught red-handed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Haryana, 34 involved police officials, representing the highest number of cases against any single department.

One of the cases involved two sub-inspectors from Faridabad. Sub-Inspector Arjun Singh was caught red-handed accepting a bribe of Rs 12.5 lakh. An additional Rs 7.47 lakh was recovered from his vehicle on November 21. The bribe was allegedly demanded to facilitate bail for two individuals in a cyberfraud case. Sub-Inspector Ram, a co-accused, fled the scene. This case marked the highest bribe amount recovered in 2024.

In another instance, Kanungo Karambir Singh from the Revenue Department was apprehended on November 26 in Kaithal while accepting a bribe of Rs 5 lakh. Additionally, an HCS officer and an Excise and Taxation official were arrested during separate raids.

Overall, the ACB registered 155 cases in 2024, including 104 trap cases that led to the seizure of Rs 88.29 lakh in bribe money. A total of 86 individuals, including six gazetted officers, 80 non-gazetted officials, and 31 private individuals, were caught red-handed accepting bribes, according to a government spokesperson. This amounts to an average of seven public servants being arrested on corruption charges each month.

In comparison, the ACB's performance in 2023 was



SPECIAL REVIEW OF CIVIL WORKS

During a special review of 71 civil works by the technical wing of the ACB, action was recommended against 63 officials from various departments, alongside the recovery of ₹2.82 crore.

INQUIRIES & ACTION

■ Of the 90 inquiries conducted in 2024, the ACB recommended criminal cases against 47 gazetted officers, 57 non-gazetted officials and 29 others in eight cases.

■ In 24 inquiries, departmental action was recommended against 31 gazetted officers and 52 non-gazetted officials. In other 29, both criminal cases and departmental action was recommended against 33 gazetted officers, 43 non-gazetted officials and three private individuals.

Department. In 2023, as many as 49 police officials were caught red-handed, along with 21 from the Revenue Department, 10 from power utilities, seven from the Food and Supply Department and six from the Urban Local Bodies Department.

"The Anti-Corruption Bureau is committed to intensifying the drive against corruption and all cases of bribery have been dealt with strictly and more crackdowns will follow in the coming days," said Alok Mittal, Director General, ACB.

Anger mounts as missing Jhajjar minor remains untraced for month

JHAJJAR, DECEMBER 31

Members of the Scheduled Caste (SC) community staged a protest in Bahadurgarh town today, expressing anger over the alleged "slackness" of the police in tracing a 14-year-old girl who went missing under mysterious circumstances a month ago.

"The girl went out to buy goods from a shop near Shiv Chowk in Bahadurgarh on December 1 but never returned. Despite extensive searches by her family and the police registering a case, her whereabouts remain unknown," said Bijender, who led the protest. He warned, "If the girl is not recovered by January 3, we will meet CM Nayab Saini during his visit to Bahadurgarh to demand immediate action." Investigating officer Harish Kumar said a special investigation team has also been formed to intensify the search," he added. — TNS

Loharu Dalit girl suicide: Minister assures action against culprits

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31
Haryana Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Krishan Bedi assured that action is being taken against those responsible for the tragic suicide of a Dalit girl in Loharu. Speaking to the media, Bedi said an FIR has been filed and the police are working diligently to apprehend the accused.

Responding to tweets from Congress leaders criticising the government's handling of the case, Bedi countered that these leaders should focus on demanding action against the culprits rather than defending them.

"An FIR was registered at Loharu police station on December 27 based on a complaint from the victim's father, who alleged that the college principal and his brother mentally and physically tortured the girl," Bedi said. "The police are actively pursuing the accused and justice will be done."

TARGETS CONG

■ Reacting to the government's criticism by Congress leaders, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Krishan Bedi questioned why Congress leaders remained silent during incidents such as the Mirchpur violence

■ He urged Congress leaders to retract their tweets on the issue and join efforts to seek justice for the victim

cally tortured the girl," Bedi said. "The police are actively pursuing the accused and justice will be done."

The Social Justice and Empowerment Minister pointed out that the college in question had been promoting free education and transport facilities in the area. He mentioned that videos featuring the local MLA discussing these initiatives are circulating on social media.

He also targeted Congress leaders for their remarks on the case. "Instead of tweeting half-heartedly, these leaders should focus on demanding action against the culprits. Their tweets appear to shield those responsible," Bedi alleged.

Bedi questioned why Congress leaders remained silent during incidents such as the Mirchpur violence. He directly called out former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, asking, "Will Hooda now ask his MLA about this matter?"

He urged Congress leaders to retract their tweets and join efforts to seek justice for the victim. "The government stands firmly with the victim's family and is committed to ensuring justice," he stated. Reiterating the government's stance, Bedi condemned the incident and assured that action would be taken against the accused without delay.

Farmers gear up for Jan 4 state-level kisan mahapanchayat in Tohana

PARVEEN ARORA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, DECEMBER 31

In preparation for the national-level kisan mahapanchayat scheduled for January 4 in Tohana, Fatehabad, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) Haryana has intensified its efforts to mobilise farmers. As part of this initiative, the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU), an SKM member, held a meeting in Karnal, attended by office-bearers from three districts.

BKU state president Rattan Mann criticised the government for failing to address the farmers' longstanding demands. He warned of "dire consequences" if the government continued to delay action.

Farmers at the meeting raised slogans against the government and dismissed its claims of procuring 24 crops at minimum support price (MSP) in Haryana. Mann accused the Chief Minister of misleading farmers.

"Instead of making false statements, the CM must secure a guarantee letter from the Union government for an MSP law," Mann demanded. He further alleged that the BJP



BKU president Rattan Mann addresses office-bearers of three districts in Karnal on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

government has consistently neglected farmers' issues, forcing them into nationwide protests.

They also voiced concerns about the deteriorating health of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on an indefinite hunger strike for over a month to push for the fulfilment of farmers' demands. Blaming the Central Government for its indifference, Mann said, "The government's stubbornness has left leaders like Dallewal with no choice but to take extreme steps."

Mann highlighted the significance of the January 4 kisan mahapanchayat in Tohana, describing it as a key demonstration of the farmers' ongoing unity and strength. He urged farmers to turn out in large numbers to ensure its success.

"Tohana Kisan Mahapanchayat will feature prominent leaders such as BKU national spokesperson Rakesh Tikait, national general secretary Yudhvir Singh and several other leaders from across the country. A significant number of farmers from Punjab are also expected to join," Mann said.

He announced that a joint Punjab-Haryana farmers' meeting would also be held in Moga, Punjab, on January 9 to continue strategising for their demands.

Reiterating the farmers' primary demand for a legal guarantee on MSP, Mann emphasised that the movement would not back down regardless of the sacrifices required. He also accused the BJP government of formulating policies aimed at dismantling traditional grain markets, further endangering farmers' livelihoods.



Led by Prithla MLA Raghubir Singh Tewatia, SKM leaders submit a memorandum for the release of compensation to the Deputy Commissioner in Palwal on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Hail-hit farmers find support as MLA backs demand for relief

BIJENDRA AHLAWAT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PALWAL, DECEMBER 31

Farmers affected by the recent hailstorm in the region have found a strong ally in Congress MLA Raghubir Singh Tewatia, who accompanied a delegation of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) to submit a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner on Tuesday, seeking immediate compensation for the damage caused to standing crops and vegetables.

Tewatia, representing the Prithla Assembly segment, expressed solidarity with the farmers and urged the state government to expedite financial support. "Coming from a farming background, I fully understand the pain and suffering of farmers who often bear the brunt of such calamities. Without government support, they cannot recover from these losses," he said.

While acknowledging the state government's recent announcement of a survey to assess the damage, Tewatia emphasised the urgency of releasing compensation, particularly for marginal farmers who are unable to absorb the financial impact. Mahender Singh Chauhan, spokesperson for the SKM, highlighted that crops in 25 to 30 villages had been severely affected by the hailstorm. A detailed survey is required to determine the exact extent of the losses. Villages listed in the memorandum include Ghughera, Alika, Dhatir, Yadupur, Kakrali, Karana, Gelpur Badha, Maheshpur, Mandori, Johar Kheda,

Durainchi, Khokhiyaka, Gharot, Rakhouta, Janachauli, Aluka and Jainpur. Chauhan said farmers in the region were already grappling with challenges such as inadequate irrigation facilities, shortage of fertilisers and seeds, and issues with disposing of paddy stubble. "The hailstorm has further distressed the crop growers, pushing many to the brink," he stated.

The memorandum also called for the release of adequate water in the canals connected to the Agra Canal in Palwal district to ensure sufficient irrigation for wheat crops. DC Dr Harish Kumar Vashisht said the concerns raised in the memorandum would be forwarded to higher authorities for necessary action.

She criticised the increasing number of rapes against Dalit women in Haryana and other BJP-ruled states. "Why are incidents of atrocities against Dalits and tribals rising continuously in BJP-ruled states?" she asked. The Congress leader pointed out that Dalits, comprising 22% of Haryana's voters, are often deprived of democratic rights. "The constitutional rights meant for them hold little significance in Haryana," she said. — TNS

₹90 cr drought relief bonus for farmers released

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31

In a gesture aimed at supporting the state's paddy farmers, Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana has released Rs 90 crore as a drought relief bonus. The announcement comes as a New Year gift to farmers facing adverse climatic conditions.

The bonus, amounting to Rs 2,000 per acre, has been disbursed to farmers under the drought relief scheme announced by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. Rana released the funds online from his office and also held a pre-Budget discussion with officers from agriculture, horticulture and allied departments.

The minister urged officers to develop comprehensive plans for the upcoming Budget, focusing on the overall welfare of farmers. He stressed the importance of procuring all 24 crops at the MSP and ensuring the timely implementation of various schemes aimed at farmers' welfare. — TNS

Leaders pay homage to Chautala, hail his legacy

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SIRSA, DECEMBER 31

At a condolence meeting held in Chautala village today in memory of former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, a number of prominent leaders, including BJP national president JP Nadra, Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Punjab's former Deputy CM Sukhbir Badal, former Finance Minister Manpreet Badal, farmer leader Rakesh Tikait and BJP state president Mohan Lal Badoli, were present. They honoured Chautala's contributions to Haryana's political and developmental landscape.

A five-minute documentary chronicling OP Chautala's life and legacy was screened during the event. The video concluded with Chautala naming Abhay Chautala as his political successor in the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD).

Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait, addressing the gathering, called for unity within the Chautala family, urging them to set aside differences. "The government's own slogan is, 'Divided we fall.' The family must come together for the greater good," he emphasised, underscoring the strength found in unity.



Union Minister JP Nadra pays tribute to former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala in Sirsa on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

greater good," he emphasised, underscoring the strength found in unity.

CMSaini described OP Chautala's life as an "open book" filled with lessons in dedication and service. He praised Chautala's relentless efforts to guide Haryana's progress, saying, "His commitment to public welfare has left an enduring legacy for all of us to follow."

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya remembered Chautala as a visionary who championed Haryana's water rights. Recounting their interactions during Chautala's tenure, he

commended his steadfast dedication to the people's interests and the state's development.

Nadra remarked that Chautala's passing marked the end of an era. He highlighted Chautala's advocacy for labourers, farmers and the middle class, noting his pivotal role in transforming Haryana into a progressive and developed state.

Abhay Chautala fondly recalled his father's guidance in teaching resilience and morality and praised his tireless dedication to the welfare of the common man and his party, even in his later years.

With 56,830 selections, highest number of jobs given in '24: HSSC chief

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31

Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) Chairman Himmat Singh has said significant steps have been taken to streamline the recruitment process in the interest of candidates after the reconstitution of the commission on July 18, 2024.

Addressing a press conference, he said this year, the commission declared results for a total of 56,830 candidates, of which approximately 36,000 results were successfully announced in just 56 working days.

Talking about the commission's achievements and initiatives, Singh said the commission had utilised social media platforms to raise awareness among candidates and linked them with the commission's official website. For the first time, candidates could directly contact any officer of the commission via phone or message to register their complaints.

He said the commission strongly advocated for the interests of the candidates in court regarding the delayed recruitments. Singh shared

that a total of 266 cases were filed concerning the results of 24,000 recruitments announced by the commission, and 418 cases were filed regarding the TGT exam results, on which the commission is taking swift action. The commission successfully conducted 28 exams in just 56 days. The remaining exams would also be conducted soon. The state has released the largest result of 24,000 candidates, said Singh, adding that compared to previous years, this year saw the highest number of youth being provided employment, with 56,830 selections.

Sharing the details, he said in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, the recruitment was done on 2,780 posts, 2,229 posts, 8,403 posts and 20,141 posts, respectively. In 2019, as many as 34,649 posts were filled. In 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, the recruitment was carried out for 8,694 posts, 3,651 posts, and 16,366 posts, respectively; and in 2023, at least 838 posts were filled.

He said a portal would be launched for complaints, where a specific timeframe for resolution would be fixed, and candidates would receive updates via messages.

Capt Yadav seeks relief for crop loss

REWARI, DECEMBER 31

Congress leader Capt Ajay Yadav yesterday called on CM Nayab Singh Saini at his residence in Chandigarh and apprised him of various problems being faced by people of Rewari. He sought compensation to the affected farmers by announcing girdawari to assess the losses. — TNS

Selja slams BJP over 'rising atrocities' against Dalits

HISAR, DECEMBER 31

Sirsa Congress MP Kumari Selja has alleged that incidents of Dalit oppression have significantly increased in BJP-ruled states, accusing them of turning into "laboratories for atrocities against Dalits."

Raising the issue of the tragic suicide of Diksha, a Dalit girl allegedly denied her exam due to unpaid college fee, Selja criticised the BJP for its failure to protect marginalised communities. "Diksha's only fault was being born into a poor Dalit family. This incident exposes the hollow nature of the BJP's slogan 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao,'" Selja said in a post on X. She questioned when the government would end discrimination based on social and economic conditions. "Is the BJP's model of development limited to a select few? Do the dreams of children from Dalit and weaker sections hold no value?" she asked.

She criticised the increasing number of rapes against Dalit women in Haryana and other BJP-ruled states. "Why are incidents of atrocities against Dalits and tribals rising continuously in BJP-ruled states?" she asked. The Congress leader pointed out that Dalits, comprising 22% of Haryana's voters, are often deprived of democratic rights. "The constitutional rights meant for them hold little significance in Haryana," she said. — TNS

NOTICE INVITING TENDER QUOTATIONS

Sealed Quotations are invited for finalization of rate contract Tender (RCT) for purchase of ICT enabled items and hardware items for various projects running under DITS, Palwal. For detail information, term & Conditions please visit at: etenders.hry.nic.in

Member Secy,
DITS, Palwal

Scientists develop neutralisers to enable vegetable cultivation in alkaline soils

PARVEEN ARORA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, DECEMBER 31
In a significant achievement, scientists from the ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) have developed alkalinity neutralisers to enable vegetable cultivation using alkaline water. This innovation could revolutionise agricultural practices in regions with underground alkaline water sources, addressing issues like water scarcity and low productivity. According to data provided by the scientists, around 30% of groundwater resources in Haryana and Punjab — key contributors to the nation's food grain supply — are affected by varying levels of alkalinity. The use of alkaline water has long been a challenge in agriculture, leading to soil sodification, reduced crop productivity and increased costs.

“Our scientists have succeeded in producing vegetables in such water,” said Dr RK Yadav, Director, ICAR-CSSRI. He added that this development would enable the expansion of vegetable



The application of sulphur-based neutralisers transformed previously unproductive land into fertile fields suitable for cultivating vegetables. TRIBUNE PHOTO

cultivation and diversification in areas previously considered unsuitable.

The milestone is part of a Department of Science and Technology (DST)-funded project

that began in 2020. A dedicated team of scientists, including Dr Nirmalendu Basak, Dr Arvind Kumar Rai, Dr Parul Sundha, Dr Priyanka Chandra, Dr Satyendra Kumar, Dr Ran-

jay Kumar Singh, Dr Rajendra Kumar Yadav and Dr Parboddh Chander Sharma, worked tirelessly for four years to develop the neutralisers.

The breakthrough involved

successful trials on okra and tomato at the CSSRI premises, followed by field experiments in Patiala, Punjab. The application of sulphur-based neutralisers transformed previously unproductive land into fertile fields suitable for cultivating vegetables like bitter melon, pumpkin, bottle gourd and ridge gourd.

“Farmers can now harvest around 10 quintals of vegetables every alternate day within two to three months of neutraliser application,” said Dr Nirmalendu Basak.

The neutralisers not only improved water quality but also enhanced soil health and crop yields. “These are effective options for crop diversification in moderately alkaline water-irrigated areas,” said Dr Arvind Kumar Rai.

With these advancements, the CSSRI team plans to submit their findings to ICAR for further dissemination. The development marks a step forward in sustainable agriculture, offering hope to farmers grappling with challenges of alkalinity and water scarcity.

Two Naib Tehsildars suspended

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31
Haryana Revenue Minister Vipul Goel has taken action against two officials of the Revenue Department for negligence in their duties by suspending them with immediate effect.

The suspended officials are Amit Kumar Yadav, Naib Tehsildar of Kadipur in Gurugram district and Raghubir Singh, Naib Tehsildar of Satnali in Mahendergarh district.

Goel has directed all Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars across the state to prioritise their responsibilities and ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience. He emphasised that strict action will be taken against any official found negligent in performing their duties.

Highlighting the state's commitment to the welfare of all citizens, Goel reminded officials that it is their responsibility to ensure that welfare schemes and programmes reach every eligible individual, especially those in need.



People beat the chill by sitting near a bonfire in Karnal. VARUN GULATI

Biochemical oxygen demand levels of irrigation water reach alarming heights

Ineffective monitoring, inadequate preventive measures to blame

BIJENDRA AHLWAT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, DECEMBER 31
The rampant release of untreated waste has led to a severe increase in the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) levels in the Yamuna and irrigation canals in the Faridabad and Palwal districts. Sources in the district administration reveal that BOD levels are now 400-500% above the permissible limits due to ineffective monitoring and inadequate preventive measures.

As per the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) guidelines, the BOD standard for water is 10 milligrams per litre. However, recent water samples indicate levels between 35 and 40 at most points, with some locations in the Yamuna peaking at 50 milligrams per litre. “The release of untreated waste not only increases BOD levels but also reduces dissolved oxygen (DO) levels to zero, wiping out aquatic life and causing a strong stench,” said Dr Shiv Singh Rawat, retired senior official of the Irrigation Department. BOD



Untreated waste lying in a drain in Faridabad. FILE PHOTO

measures the oxygen required by microorganisms to decompose organic matter in water. Experts note that high BOD levels point to a failure in wastewater treatment and sewage management. According to officials, the untreated industrial and chemical waste entering water bodies has been a persistent issue.

The Yamuna stretches for 100 km through Faridabad and Palwal, while the Agra and Gurugram canals, originating from the Okhla Barrage in New Delhi, run 70 to 80 km before reaching Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Arvind Sharma, Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) in the

Irrigation Department, said while no complaints have emerged from his jurisdiction, violations of the Canal

Act are prosecutable offences. Sandeep Singh, an official of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB), said water samples are collected regularly and reports submitted to relevant authorities.

The onus of monitoring lies with the Irrigation Department and the HSPCB, while civic bodies are tasked with preventing unauthorised waste disposal. However, the situation continues to deteriorate due to lax enforcement and rising pollution levels.

Cold wave tightens grip, temp below normal

DEEPPENDER DESWAL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, DECEMBER 31
Haryana continues to reel under a cold wave with the maximum temperature remaining below normal by 6.7°C, though the average maximum temperature recorded a slight rise by 0.7°C in comparison to yesterday.

The lowest maximum temperature of 11.3°C was recorded in Ambala, which is 7.2°C below the normal. The highest maximum temperature was recorded in Sirsa at 17.6°C, a rise from yesterday's 15.8°C.

The lowest minimum temperature today was registered in Narnaul at 4.5°C. Despite the slight increase, the weather remained harsh, with cold days to severe cold day conditions reported in several parts of the state. The weather has largely been dry across the state.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department, a western disturbance is currently being observed as a cyclonic circulation over East Afghanistan. Additionally, a fresh western disturbance is expected to impact Northwest

India, including Haryana, from January 4, which may bring changes in the prevailing weather conditions.

The fresh western disturbance might provide relief, but till then residents have been advised to take precautions as the cold wave conditions persist. The Haryana Government has announced the closure of all schools from January 1 to January 15 in view of the cold wave.

Bhiwani Deputy Commissioner Mahavir Kaushik has issued guidelines for protection against the severe cold

wave, highlighting an advisory released by the State Revenue and Disaster Management Department. He has urged people to take preventive measures to combat the effects of the cold wave.

He said during cold wave conditions, people should stay indoors as much as possible and minimise travel to avoid exposure to winds. Special care should be given to children and the elderly. It is crucial to have emergency supplies readily available, he stated.

RECRUITMENT NOTICE
GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Recruitment Notice Reference No. Admn/PSACS/2024/dated
Applications are invited for the following post in Punjab State AIDS Control Society

Sr. No.	Name of the post	Number of vacancies	Salary per month (In Rs.)
1.	Divisional Assistant	1 SC (Female)	23,800/-

Last date & time: 10.01.2025 & 05:00 p.m.
For details logon to: <http://punjabacs.punjab.gov.in>
Note:- Any corrigendum(s) to the recruitment notice shall be published on the above website.
DPR/PB/40366
Punjab State AIDS Control Society

DIRECTORATE OF SPORTS, PUNJAB
Yuva Bhavan, Sector 42-A, Chandigarh — 160036
REGARDING CASH AWARD OF COACHES
Applications are invited for cash award to felicitate the coaches of the sportspersons of Punjab who have won medals in international tournaments by the Sports Department, Government of Punjab as per Sports Policy - 2018 and New Sports Policy - 2023 for the session of the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 (dated 01.04.2023 to 30.12.2024).
Cash award proforma, checklist, advertisement and other details are available on sports department website www.pbsports.punjab.gov.in. Details of Eligibility criteria are mentioned in the Cash Prize Policy, 2019.
Eligible coaches should submit their application in the prescribed proforma along with the specified documents mentioned in the check list from 01.01.2025 to 31.01.2025 at the Head Office by hand or by post.
Note: It is also publicly notified that henceforth coaches can apply for their cash awards under the New Sports Policy 2023 at the office of Director of Sports Punjab as and when they become eligible upon the successful completion of the eligible sports event.
DPR/PB/40339
Sd/- Director Sports, Punjab

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL BATHINDA CANTT
(ENGLISH MEDIUM, CBSE AFFILIATED)
website: www.apsbathinda.org
1. Army Public School, Sri Ganganagar and Faridkot, require the following staff against existing/anticipated vacancies on Regular basis :-

Place of work	Name of Post	Salary
APS Sri Ganganagar	PGT- Chemistry, Maths	Basic Pay Rs 32430/-
APS Faridkot	TGT- English, Counsellor	Basic Pay Rs 31430/-

Note:- DA and HRA applicable as per school norms.
2. Passing the Online Screening Test is henceforth **NOT MANDATORY** for appearing for the interview and evaluation of Teaching Skills & Computer proficiency however, after selection for the post of a teacher (Regular), the candidate must pass the OST within two years of being appointed with a minimum overall raw score of 50% (100 marks).
3. For Eligibility Criteria and qualification required, please refer to school's website: www.apsbathinda.org.
4. The above mentioned posts are for Regular appointment. The selection process will include interview followed by evaluation of teaching skills.
5. Candidates may apply on prescribed application form available on AWES website www.awesindia.com and also available on school website www.apsbathinda.org. Candidates may download the application form through the above website. Duly completed form in all respect, along with self attested photocopy of all testimonials (Academic & experience) and a demand draft of Rs 250/- (Rupees Two Hundred Fifty Only) (Non refundable) is required to be submitted in favour of the school where willing to apply. Submit the application in the OPTED SCHOOL ONLY. List of short listed candidates for interview will be intimated via email. Last date for submission of application is 15 Jan 2025 to the respective schools only.
Note:- No applications will be accepted via email. Only hard copy by hand/post will be accepted.
6. Date & time of interview will be intimated to only short listed candidates through mobile/telephonically/e-mail. **Kindly mention your e-mail ID for further correspondence.**
7. Decision of SAMC (School Administrative & Managing Committee) will be final and abiding.
Principal

JOINT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
(For the State of Goa and Union Territories)
3rd and 4th Floor, Plot No. 55-56,
Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV,
Sector-18, Gurugram Haryana-122015
Ph. No 0124-4684705
E-mail: aao.jercuts@gov.in, Website: www.jercuts.gov.in
PUBLIC NOTICE
In exercise of the powers conferred by 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003), read with Section 61, 66 and 86 thereof and all other powers enabling it in this, the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission proposes the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the State of Goa and the Union Territories (Framework for Resource Adequacy) Regulations, 2024.
Accordingly, the draft Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the State of Goa and the Union Territories (Framework for Resource Adequacy) Regulations, 2024 is available on the website of the Commission i.e., www.jercuts.gov.in for comments/suggestions of the stakeholder.
The comments/suggestions on the above stated regulation may be forwarded to the Commission by post or by email addressed to the Secretary, Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (for the State of Goa & Union Territories), 3rd & 4th Floor, Plot No. 55-56, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Sector 18, Gurugram, Haryana 122015 (email: secy.jercuts@gov.in) latest by 24 January, 2025.
Secretary, (I/c), JERC
CBC-34124/12/0017/2425

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, बिलासपुर
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<https://aiimsbilaspur.edu.in>
E-mail: dean.acad@aiimsbilaspur.edu.in
AIIMS/BLS/Acad/EMT/2024-7793 31st December, 2024
NOTIFICATION
AIIMS, Bilaspur, H.P. invites applications from interested candidates who have passed 10+2 Science (Medical/Non-Medical) for Emergency Medical Technician Diploma Course of 02 years duration.

Sr. No.	Particulars	Details
1.	Total No. of Seats	10 Nos. (UR-06, OBC-02, SC-01, EWS-01)

Format of the applications and other details can be downloaded from the official website of AIIMS, Bilaspur, H.P. (website www.aiimsbilaspur.edu.in). The filled application with necessary enclosures (as specified in the form) must be submitted to the Academic Section addressed to The Dean (Academic), AIIMS Bilaspur, H.P. - 1740011 on or before 15th January 2025 (ONLINE) and 20th January 2025 (OFFLINE).
Sd/- Registrar,
AIIMS, Bilaspur, H.P.

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National Open Competitive Bidding
INVITATION FOR BIDS
(E-Tender Mode only)
National Open Competitive Bids (Open Tendering Mode) are invited from prospective bidders/firms for the tender titled **Bid Tender No. 01-WB/Bundled RTC/2024: "HIRING OF POWER TRADER/ AGGREGATOR BY HPPCL FOR DEVELOPING AND OPERATIONALIZING A GREEN BUNDLED PRODUCT WITH AN IDENTIFIED HYDROPOWER CAPACITY AND OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE) CAPACITY."**
Starting of Sale of Bid Document : 10:00 Hrs on 01.01.2025
Deadline for Submission of Bids : 14:00 Hrs. on 05.02.2025
Opening of Bids : 15:00 Hrs. on 05.02.2025
Cost of Bidding Document: INR 25,000/- (Indian Rupees Twenty five Thousand) only (inclusive of GST).
For detailed tender notification, please visit www.hppcl.in or <https://www.tenderwizard.in/HPPCL>.
Sd/-
Dy. General Manager (SoP)

PM SHRI JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA
FATEHPUR RAJPUTAN, DISTT. PATIALA
NOTICE FOR WALK-IN INTERVIEW
PM SHRI School, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya District Patiala (Punjab) invites eligible female candidates for walk-in interview for the post of Matrons (on purely contract basis) for the period of 10 months in a year. The interview will be held on **07.01.2025 at 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** in the office of the Principal, PM SHRI School, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya District Patiala. Detail and information about these posts has been put on Vidyalaya web: <https://navodaya.gov.in/nvs/nvs-school/Patiala/en/home/> like eligibility, pay scale, age limit, etc.
Sd/- Principal
e-mail id: principaljnvpatiala@gmail.com
DI-21994

OFFICE OF DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION PUNJAB, S.A.S. NAGAR
Punjab School Education Board Building Complex, E-Block, 7th Floor, Sector-62, S.A.S. Nagar
PUBLIC NOTICE
SCHEDULE OF COUNSELLING/DOCUMENT VERIFICATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT PROFESSORS AND LIBRARIANS
In compliance of decisions in various CWP's and representations regarding discrepancies in the results for recruitment of 1158 Assistant Professors and Librarians in Government colleges of Punjab, selection committees revisited and prepared the tentative selection lists. Counselling/document verification will be conducted at SMHS Govt. College, Phase 6, S.A.S. Nagar on 02.01.2025, 03.01.2025 and 04.01.2025 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The candidates are required to bring original documents comprising academic certificate, domicile/residence certificate along with attested photocopy of all testimonials. No separate correspondence shall be made in this regard by the department. Personal appearance of candidate is mandatory during counselling. Candidates shall make their own arrangements for overnight stay in case their counselling gets delayed to next day(s). Absent candidate shall not be considered and claim for selection.
For other details and list of candidates calling for counselling/verification of documents, visit the website <https://eservices.gndu.ac.in/govtrecruitment/index.aspx>
DPR/PB/40373
Director Higher Education Punjab

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
This notice serves to inform the general public, Sector Skill Councils as well as our valued Training Partners that National Skill Development Corporation w.e.f. October 14, 2024, has ceased all employment relations with Mr. Sanjeeva K Singh, previously employed as Executive Vice President (Impact Financing).
Please note that Mr. Sanjeeva K Singh is no longer authorized to represent, engage or transact on behalf of National Skill Development Corporation. Any interaction, transaction, communication or agreement made with Mr. Sanjeeva K Singh after October 14, 2024 shall be done at your own legal risk, cost and consequences and will not be acknowledged or honoured by National Skill Development Corporation.
National Skill Development Corporation disclaims any responsibility for agreements or commitments made by Mr. Sanjeeva K Singh post October 14, 2024.
For any inquiries or assistance, please contact us at hr@nsdcindia.org
Principal
CBC 63113/12/008/2025

Suspended jathedar flays SGPC probe

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, DECEMBER 31
The suspended Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib, Giani Harpreet Singh, on Tuesday slammed the SGPC for opening a probe against him.
"I have learnt that an unauthorised committee formed to investigate baseless charges against me has been given more time. If they think that the allegations against me are true, they should terminate my services," he said.
The probe pertains to a complaint by Gurpreet Singh of Muktsar, who claimed that he was married to the Jathedar's sister-in-law. In his complaint to the SGPC on December 16, Gurpreet alleged that the Jathedar interfered in his married life, leading to his separation. He claimed the Jathedar used his influence to harass him and entangled him in court cases. He said he was an employee of the SGPC, but lost his job and slipped into depression.

'Deliberate act': SGPC demands judicial probe into UP encounter

3 Punjab youths accused of Gurdaspur grenade attack were killed in Pilibhit

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 31
The SGPC executive on Tuesday demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing of three Punjab youths in a police encounter in Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh.
On December 23, a joint team of the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh police killed three suspected terrorists, who were allegedly involved in a grenade attack on a police post in Gurdaspur, in an encounter in Pilibhit's Puranpur.
During a meeting of the executive, which was held under the chairmanship of SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhumi, a resolution, raising serious questions over the police encounter, was passed. "This is a very serious matter and it seems like a deliberate act to target Punjab's youths," the resolution read, which also termed the encounter a serious viola-



SGPC executive members at a meeting in Amritsar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

JUNKS CALL TO EXCOMMUNICATE CHAURA

- The SGPC executive passed a resolution rejecting the demand for excommunicating Narain Singh Chaura from the Panth
- A former terrorist, Chaura recently tried to assassinate SAD leader Sukhbir Singh Badal outside the Golden Temple

GIVES MORE TIME TO PROBE PANEL

- The Sikh body extended the duration of the panel probing harassment charges against Giani Harpreet Singh, the suspended Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib, by a month

tion of the human rights.
The SGPC also passed a resolution rejecting the demand for excommunicating former terrorist Narain Singh Chaura from the Panth. Chaura recently tried to assassinate SAD leader

Sukhbir Singh Badal outside the Golden Temple.
The Sikh body also extended the duration of the panel probing charges against Giani Harpreet Singh, the suspended Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib, by a month.
The probe panel was formed in the previous executive meeting held on December 19 to probe allegations against the jathedar. Resolving to hold an impartial probe against the jathedar, the executive reasoned that the decision was taken on account of the proposed elections to the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.
The executive condoned the demise of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh by reciting "mool mantar" and passing a resolution, highlighting the veteran leader's contribution to the country's growth and hailing his statesmanship.

In crackdown on drug trade, 8,935 peddlers held in '24: IG

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31
The state police arrested as many as 8,935 drug smugglers and suppliers, including 210 big fish after registering 12,255 FIRs in 2024.
This was revealed by IG Sukhchain Singh Gill while addressing a year-end briefing on Tuesday.
He said police teams recovered 1,099 kg heroin, 991 kg opium, 414 quintals poppy husk and 2.94 lakh tablets, capsules, injections and vials of pharma opioids from across the state. Besides, Rs 14.73 crore drug money had been recovered, he said.
Bathinda witnessed the registration of maximum number of 601 drug smuggling cases followed by Nawanshahr (572) and Patiala (531) in 2024. The IG said the police also forfeited 531 properties worth Rs 335 crore of big smugglers this year. He said 71 drug consumers, caught with little quantity of drugs, availed relaxation under Section 64-A of the NDPS by pledging to go for rehab, he added.
Listing achievements, Gill said, "From the series of attacks on police establishments to high-profile killings of Hindu leader Vikas Bagga at Nangal and ex-terrorist



IGS Sukhchain Singh Gill

Ratandeep Singh, the state police left no stone unturned in bringing the perpetrators to justice."
Other notable cases solved included the hand grenade attack at a house in Sector 10, Chandigarh and at a petrol station in Mansa; besides the triple murder case in Ferozepur. Gill said as part of the ongoing drive against proclaimed offenders and absconders under the NDPS cases, the police arrested 843 accused in 2024.
Recounting success against gangsters, the IG said the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) along with field units succeeded in busting 198 modules by arresting 559 gangsters/criminals and seized 482 weapons, 102 vehicles, 7 Kg heroin and Rs 2.14 crore drug money from their possession.
At least 64 exchanges of fire took place between police

parties and criminals, during which three gangsters/criminals were neutralised and 63 arrested.
"Unfortunately, one of our colleagues attained martyrdom while nine police personnel suffered injuries," Gill said. Providing details on action against terrorists, the officer said the Internal Security Wing busted 12 modules with the arrest of 66 terrorists.
It also seized two rifles, 76 revolvers and pistols, two improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 758 grams of RDX and other explosives, four hand grenades and 257 drones.
Police teams recovered 185 kg heroin, 24 pistols, an AK-47 rifle, an IED and Rs 4.18 lakh drug money dropped via drones, Gill said and added there were 513 drone sightings during the year.
Acting against the use of mobile phones inside jails, the Punjab Police blacklisted 2,348 IMEI numbers and blocked 731 mobile numbers. At least 483 social media accounts glorifying gangsters and promoting violence were also blocked, he said.
The Punjab government has been focusing on strengthening and modernisation of the police force, the IGP said.

Assets worth ₹3 cr seized

Faridkot, DECEMBER 31
In a move against drug trafficking, the Faridkot police seized properties, worth Rs 3.38 crore of 13 notorious drug peddlers operating in the district. The action was taken under the stringent

provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, a law aimed at curbing drug-related crimes and disrupting the activities of drug cartels, said Dr Pragya Jain, SSP, Faridkot. — TNS

No fresh FIR in Kapurthala farm case; didn't employ kids: Owner

APARNA BANERJI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BRINDPUR, DECEMBER 31
Two days after 11 children were rescued from a potato farm at Brindpur in Kapurthala, the state police were yet to file a fresh FIR against the owner.
Though two FIRs were registered against two contractors in Bihar on the charges of child labour and sexual exploitation of a 15-year-old girl, the state police were yet to act.
When contacted, Kapurthala SSP Gaurav Toora said, "An FIR was lodged in Punjab after a raid on the same farm in November. We are in the process of filing a chargesheet



Teja Singh (left) the owner of Pehalwan Farms. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MALKIAT SINGH

in that case."
DSP Deep Karan Singh said, "The first complaint against Bigan Rai (one of the contractors) received on November 21, following which the farm was raided and eight persons, including a minor, were rescued. The information regarding FIRs in Bihar was received on Sunday. After verification, we will also file an FIR."
Meanwhile, Teja Singh (82), the owner of the farm who is at the centre of the controversy involving employment of child labour at his Pehalwan Farms, rejected the charges. An FIR was filed against Teja Singh at Sadar police station on December 25, pertaining to a raid in November) under Section 3 of the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986 for employing a child labour. The contractor employed at his farm is absconding. Two FIRs

were filed against the contractor (Bigan Rai) in Bihar.
A former lightweight wrestler, Teja Singh said he was distraught at the charges levelled against him. "Asi ration, paisa, ghar ditta, Chath Puja rakhvai... par sadde te galat ilazam lag gya. (We gave ration, money and accommodation, and organised Chath Puja for them, but they levelled false charges against us)," he said.
Teja Singh claimed he first got to know about Bigan Rai from another potato farmer and had no inkling about his involvement in criminal cases.
He said, "Bigan had employed many labourers in our farms. We paid him Rs 7-8 lakh this season. Labourers from Bihar live with their children. He didn't tell us he had also employed them. We are not aware of the 16-18 work hours or the sexual abuse charge."

No invitation for talks yet from SC-named panel: Farm unions

SUSHIL GOYAL

SANGRUR, DECEMBER 31
Speaking on behalf of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM), farm leader Abhimanyu Kohar today said none of these unions had received any invitation from the Supreme Court-appointed committee, formed to look into the issues of farmers, for January 3 meeting in Panchkula.
In the same breath, he said they would not go to attend the meeting with the committee at any cost.
On December 16, the kisan unions received an invitation from the committee to hold talks on December 18, however, farm leader Jagjit Singh Dallelaw, whose fast-unto-death entered Day 36 today at the Khanauri border, wrote to the panel stating that their demands were related to the Centre, thus



Farm leader Abhimanyu Kohar addresses the media on Tuesday.

they would only talk to them, said Kohar, adding that other farm unions were free to participate in the meeting on January 3.
Kohar pointed out that Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture in its report in mid-December, the SC-appointed committee in its 11-page interim report in November and PM Narendra Modi (then CM of Gujarat) as a chairman of the Central Consumer Affairs Committee in his report in 2011, had empha-

sised on the enactment of the minimum support price (MSP) guarantee law.
Besides, the Swaminathan Commission in its recommendations had also recommended fixation of the MSP as per CT+50 per cent formula, he added. He said they were just demanding enactment of the MSP guarantee law from the Centre. Lakhwinder Singh Aulakh, president, Bhartiya Kisan Ekta, Haryana, said they had received inputs that the government had been gathering forces in Punjab.

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POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called Shubham) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for an amount detailed below and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details are as below:

S. No.	Loan No/Borrower(s), Co-Borrower	Demand Notice Amount	Date of Demand Notice	Secured Asset	Date of Affiliation
1.	OKAR1803000005011648, Sunil Kumar, Vikas	Rs. 2,37,395/-	23-09-2024	Property House Situated in Village Mundri Inside Lal Dora Tehsil And District Kaithal Haryana -136042	28-12-2024
2.	OSNP1712000005009748, Vijender Singh, Geeta	Rs. 5,67,127/-	23-09-2024	Plot measuring 140 Square Yards, Khewat No. 254, Khata No. 273 Kite - 8 of land measuring 51K-16M-0S Situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Gohana, Tehsil Gohana, Distt. Sonapat, Haryana-131101	28-12-2024
3.	OREWI707000005007094, RAJIBIR, ANITA	Rs. 5,41,347/-	23-09-2024	Residential House No. 370 Admeasuring 144 Sq.Yds Lal Dora Situated at Mouja-Subana, Tehsil & District Jhajjar, Haryana-124109	28-12-2024
4.	OKAR2102000005035161, KULDEEP, KAVITA	Rs. 8,36,507/-	23-09-2024	House Village Pingli Abadi Deh Under Lal Dora Tehsil and District Karnal Haryana-132001	28-12-2024
5.	OGGN2201000005042916, Ram Kanwar, Pinki	Rs. 9,93,867/-	22-10-2024	Property situated at Dhari Mahtab Das, Balmiki Basti , Tehsil & District Bhiwani, Haryana-127021	28-12-2024
6.	OREWI703000005004564, Sunil Sharma, Niraj Kumar	Rs. 6,94,039/-	22-10-2024	A - Class Building, Khewat No. 162, Khatoon No. 185, Mustli No. - 67 Killa No. 28 (2/13-3), Khat 1 Tada 13 Kanal 13 Marla 7/23 Part Bakdar 7 Marla (200 Sq.Yds), Waka Bawal Tehsil Bawal, Dist. Rewari, Haryana-123501.	28-12-2024
7.	OSNP1710000005008654, Ram Parkash, Indra Vati	Rs. 4,84,490/-	22-10-2024	Khewat No. 340, Khata No. 469, Killa No. 31/1/1/1/ 0-3 waka Rakha Mouja Kundi, Tehsil & Distt- Sonapat, Haryana - 131028	28-12-2024
8.	OSNP1810000005015455, Subhash Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Chandrawati, Anita Kumari, Pappu,	Rs. 8,52,642/-	22-10-2024	Plot measuring 125 Sq.Yds Khewat No.689 min, Khata No.869 min Rectangle & Killa No.8/21(7-12) Situated in the Revenue Estate of aiyarpur Tehsil & Distt Sonapat Haryana -131001	28-12-2024

PLACE:- GURGAON, DATE :- 31-12-2024

Authorized Officer,
SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE COMPANY LTD.

HOMAGE

Here's to an angel god sent
So that all might dwell in his love;
An angel who gave strength,
Who loved unconditionally every being
on this earth;
Who stood by us gracefully,
Putting joy and happiness in everything we did;
Here's to PAPAJI, god's special angel.
So loving and giving that we feel blessed
and proud to be his children!

SH. SOHAN LAL PAHWA
16.12.1923-01.01.2008

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Erratic weather forcing shift from apple to other fruits

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 31 Erratic weather and rising input costs are pushing apple growers into growing stone fruits like almonds, plum, apricot, cherry, etc. Another fruit that has attracted the attention of apple growers is persimmon.

Over the last few years, there has been a noticeable shift towards these fruits in the apple belts. The biggest push for diversification has come from erratic weather. The traditional apple varieties need around 800-1,200 chilling hours in winter. With the reduction in snowfall and the winter season becoming dry and warm, it is becoming increasingly tough to get the required chilling hours.

"It will be very difficult to

meet the chilling hour requirement of the traditional apple varieties in the future, especially in the mid and low apple belts. The way forward is to go for fruits that require much less chilling hours, around 300-500 hours and fruits like plums, almond, apricot and persimmon need much lesser chilling hours," said Deepak Singha, president of Stone Fruit Growers Association. "No wonder, several apple growers have started growing these fruits along with apple, which is facing multiple challenges at the moment," he said.

Lokinder Bisht, president of the Progressive Growers Association, said the shift towards alternative fruits has begun, and it is likely to intensify in the near future. "Apart from the

erratic weather, the input cost in apple cultivation has shot through the roof, especially after Covid. The net profit in apple cultivation has reduced to below 50 per cent of the total sale. Due to erratic weather, crop failure and plant mortality is on the rise. Overall, it's becoming increasingly difficult to keep apple cultivation sustainable," said Bisht. Compared to the input cost in apple cultivation, the input cost in these fruits is significantly less.

Meanwhile, the Horticulture Department is also pushing diversification. Under the Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project, planting material for fruits like almonds, apricot has been imported to push diversification in apple belts.



A worker harvests the apple crop in upper Shimla. TRIBUNE PHOTO: LALIT KUMAR

Milk purchase to be digitised in 10 societies, says Sukhu

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 31 Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said digitisation of milk procurement would be started in 10 societies on a pilot basis.

Presiding over a review meeting of the Animal Husbandry Department here today, he said focus must be on individual milk testing, real-time data management with web and mobile interface.

"Digitisation would ensure hassle-free and seamless operations of the milk procurement which would also go a long way in maintaining transparency," he said.

The Chief Minister also instructed to ensure GPS-enabled route tracking and optimisation for efficient milk transportation.

Sukhu said the state government is strengthening the rural economy by providing remunerative prices

to milk producers. "Himachal is the first state in the country to introduce minimum support price for milk procurement. Cow milk is being procured at Rs 45 per litre and buffalo milk at Rs 55 per litre," he said.

Sukhu said the state government would spend Rs 161.52 crore for setting up six new milk-chilling plants and milk-processing plants in the state. "A state-of-the-art fully automated milk-processing plant is being set up at Dagwar in Kangra district with 1.5 lakh litre capacity per day expandable up to 3 lakh litres," he said.

This plant will become operational in March 2026, benefitting the milk producers from Kangra, Una, Hamirpur and other neighbouring districts.

Animal Husbandry Minister Prof Chander Kumar was present at the meeting.



CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at a review meeting of Animal Husbandry Department in Shimla on Tuesday.

Construction of 6 Rajiv Gandhi schools begins

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 31 The construction of six Rajiv Gandhi day-boarding schools has commenced in Nagrota Bagwan, Jwalamukhi, Fatehpur, Palampur and Jai Singhpur Assembly constituencies in Kangra district, along with the Bhoranj constituency in Hamirpur district.

A government spokesperson said that these schools were being constructed in a phased manner. Each school would have a capacity to accommodate at least 1,000 students from pre-primary to class XII.

"The schools will be equipped with modern facilities such as high-tech smart classrooms, sports grounds, indoor stadiums, swimming pools, etc. These schools will significantly improve the standard of government educational institutions," said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. He said the state government had notified 100 government high schools, 200 government senior secondary schools, 48 government colleges and two government Sanskrit colleges as 'Centres of Excellence'. — TNS

CHAPTER - 1 CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION: JAIL DEPARTMENT E-TENDER NOTICE

The e-tender is, hereby, invited from the manufacturers/suppliers for the supply of Medicines & Surgical Items for dispensary of Model Jail Chandigarh amounting to Rs. 10.00 Lacs approximately to the Model Jail, Chandigarh through e-tender process.

I	Downloading of e-tender document	Start Date: 02.01.2025 at 10:00 a.m. End Date: 27.01.2025 at 03:00 p.m.
II	Clarification, if any	Start Date: 02.01.2025 at 10:00 a.m. End Date: 27.01.2025 at 03:00 p.m.
III	Date of submission of e-tender	Start Date: 02.01.2025 at 10:00 a.m. End Date: 27.01.2025 at 03:00 p.m.
IV	Physical submission of EMD amounting to Rs. 30,000/-	Start Date: 02.01.2025 at 10:00 a.m. End Date: 27.01.2025 at 03:00 p.m.
V	Opening of Technical Bid (online)	30.01.2025 at 12:00 Noon
VI	Opening of Price Bid of only of eligible technically qualified bidder to be determined by Purchase Committee.	To be announced after evaluating technical bid.

- The Bid Document can be downloaded from the website <http://etenders.chd.nic.in/cigep>.
- All other terms and conditions, instructions to bidder regarding e-tendering process etc. may kindly be seen from the detailed Notice Inviting Tender (DNIT) available on the above noted website of Chandigarh Administration. The undersigned reserves the rights to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- Superintendent,
Model Jail, Chandigarh.

Displaced 45 years ago, 5 families yet to get ownership of alternative land

DIPENDER MANTA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, DECEMBER 31

Five families from Malhanu village in Balh tehsil of Mandi district filed petitions with the Chairman of the Legislative Assembly Petition Committee in Shimla yesterday seeking ownership rights over the land that was promised to them in 1979.

The families, displaced by the Beas Sutlej Link Project, have been waiting for nearly half a century to receive formal ownership of the land granted to them in exchange for their acquired land.

The five petitioners — Shankar, Parma Nand, Atma Ram, Balak Ram, and Mani Ram — were among the many displaced by the construction of a canal for the Beas-Sutlej Link Project.

According to these families, under a state government policy for displaced families, these individuals were allocated a total of 36 bighas. The possession of this land was officially handed over to them by Naib Tehsildar (Rehabilitation) in 1979. As part of the arrangement, the families deposited the required 'nazrana' (land fee) and com-



The displaced petitioners with lawyer BR Kondal in Mandi.

ensation for forest produce. "However, despite completing all necessary formalities, including the payment of required fee, we have been unable to secure official ownership of the land due to a delay in the sanctioning order by the Deputy Commissioner of Mandi. Although we were assured of getting ownership rights, the matter has been under the Deputy Commissioner's consideration for 45 years, with no final decision being made," claimed Shankar, Parma Nand, Atma Ram, Balak Ram, and Mani Ram.

The Deputy Commissioner has indicated that the matter is still pending approval from the state government because there are no official documents or order available to transfer government land on the name of these affected families. However, the petitioners contend that the Deputy Commissioner has the authority to grant ownership rights under the state's policy for displaced families, and that the delay is unjustified. They said that the Sub-Divisional Officer of the area has written to the Deputy Commissioner recommend-

ing that an order be passed for the attestation of the mutation of the land, further supporting the petitioners' claim.

In response to the prolonged delay and lack of action, the families have now escalated the issue to the Legislative Assembly Petition Committee, which was recently reconstituted by the state government. The petitioners are hopeful the committee would facilitate a resolution, avoiding the need for a legal battle.

BR Kondal, a legal expert, who has been assisting the petitioners, expressed frustration over the inaction of

the administration, calling the 45-year delay a clear sign of bureaucratic neglect. Kondal said that with the reconstitution of the Petition Committee, there is renewed hope that the families may finally get justice without the need for a court case.

If the committee fails to address their concerns, the petitioners have expressed their intention to approach the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

Deputy Commissioner, Mandi, Apoorv Devgan said that "this matter is under my consideration. These affected families could not produce any old official order or any other official records regarding allocation of government land to them, which is a major hurdle to give ownership of government land to them. However in 2018, then DC Mandi raised this issue with the state government. I am trying to find a solution for it at the earliest, but without proper official record, it is not possible to transfer forest land in the name of these affected families. We are trying to find old official records to resolve this issue."

Sukhu launches 'Har Din Sehat' drive in Shimla

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 31

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the 'Har Din Sehat' campaign here today. He said this health awareness programme aims to promote a culture of health consciousness and disease prevention among the people of Himachal.

Under this campaign, students of the Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla, and Sister Nivedita Nursing College will organise health talks at various places to raise awareness about adopting a healthy lifestyle. These activities will be conducted in different wards and OPDs of

IGMC-Shimla as well as public places under the Shimla MC. The CM said the campaign's objective is to prevent diseases, increasing awareness about government health facilities and encouraging effective utilisation of health services and schemes. — TNS

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, KAPURTHALA
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(AFFILIATED TO CBSE, NEW DELHI)
Mob: 9914923104 Website: www.apskpt.in

TENDER NOTICE
1. Army Public School Kapurthala invites quotations for **SYNTHETIC COATING OF BASKET BALL COURT.**
2. Tender document to be collected from School Office on any working day (0900 – 1500hrs) on cash payment of Rs 500/-. In case of any query email at apskapurthala@awesindia.edu.in. School management has the right to cancel the project/procurement without any advance notice and without any compensation to the bidders. Last date & time for submission of bids **25 Jan 2025 (1500 hrs).**
Sd/-Principal

ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਉਪ ਮੰਡਲ ਮੈਜਿਸਟਰੇਟ, ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ

ਨੋਟੀਫਿਕੇਸ਼ਨ 20 ਦੇ ਨੰਬਰ 1684 (E) ਮਿਤੀ 10.04.2023 ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਪਿੰਡ ਭੰਗਾਲਾ, ਮੰਜ ਕਾਲਾ, ਤਲਵੰਡੀ ਕਲਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਮੁਸਾਹਿਬਪੁਰ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਹੁਸ਼ਿਆਰਪੁਰ ਵਿਚ ਰੇਲਵੇ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਲਈ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਐਕੁਆਇਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਪਿੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਮਾਲਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਆਵਜ਼ਾ ਦੇਣ ਲਈ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ, ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ/ਛਾਟ ਰੇਟ ਮਿਤੀ 01.04.2020 ਤੋਂ 10.04.2024 ਤੱਕ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ, ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਵੇਰਵਾ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਪਿੰਡ ਭੰਗਾਲਾ, ਮੰਜ ਕਾਲਾ, ਤਲਵੰਡੀ ਕਲਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਮੁਸਾਹਿਬਪੁਰ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਕਿਸਮਵਾਰ ਰੇਟ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ:- ਪਿੰਡ ਭੰਗਾਲਾ:-

ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਦੀ ਐਕੁਆਇਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਕਿਸਮ ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ/ਬਰਾਨੀ/ਗੈਰ-ਮੁਮਕਿਨ ਨਾਲਾ/ਨਹਿਰ ਆਬਾਦੀ, ਵਪਾਰਕ ਅਤੇ 2:2 ਕਿੱਲੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਰਕਬਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਸਮ ਗੈਰ ਨਾਲਾ/ਨਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਕੋਈ ਰੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਏ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਕਿਸਮ ਨੂੰ ਚਾਹੀ ਦੇ ਰੇਟ 12500/- ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਰਲਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਣਾ ਯੋਗ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ ਨੂੰ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ ਪਾਸੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਏ ਰੇਟਾਂ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਕਿਸਮਵਾਰ ਰੇਟ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਯੋਗ ਹਨ। ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਾ ਵੇਰਵਾ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹੈ:-

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	ਕਿਸਮ ਰਕਬਾ	ਰੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਰਲਾ	ਰੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਏਕੜ
1	(ਦੋ ਕਿੱਲੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ) ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ/ਬਰਾਨੀ	12500/-	20,00000/-
2	ਆਬਾਦੀ	84100/-	-----
3	ਵਪਾਰਕ	305673/-	-----
4	ਗੈਰ ਨਾਲਾ/ਨਹਿਰ	12500/-	20,00000/-
5	ਮੋਨ ਰੋਡ ਤੋਂ 2:2 ਕਿੱਲੇ ਅੰਦਰ	34712/-	5533900/-

ਪਿੰਡ ਮੰਜ ਕਾਲਾ

ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਦੀ ਐਕੁਆਇਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ/ ਗੈਰ-ਮੁਮਕਿਨ/ਬਰਾਨੀ ਕਿਸਮ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਨੂੰ ਗੈਰ. ਰਸਤੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ ਰੇਟ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਯੋਗ ਹਨ। ਕਿਸਮ ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ/ਬਰਾਨੀ ਨੂੰ ਛਾਟ/ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ ਰੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਏ ਹਨ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਯੋਗ ਹਨ:-

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	ਕਿਸਮ ਰਕਬਾ	ਰੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਰਲਾ	ਰੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਏਕੜ
1	(ਦੋ ਕਿੱਲੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ) ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ/ਬਰਾਨੀ	19804/-	3168640/-
2	ਗੈਰ ਰਸਤਾ	17356	2777000/-
3	ਆਬਾਦੀ	105140	-----
4	ਵਪਾਰਕ	291735	-----

ਪਿੰਡ ਤਲਵੰਡੀ ਕਲਾਂ

ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਦੀ ਐਕੁਆਇਰ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ ਚਾਹੀ/ਗੈਰ ਆਬਾਦੀ, ਗੈਰ ਨਾਲਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਰਕਸ਼ਾਪ/ਵਪਾਰਕ ਕਿਸਮ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਨੂੰ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਕਿਸਮਵਾਰ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ ਰੇਟ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਯੋਗ ਹਨ:-

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	ਕਿਸਮ ਰਕਬਾ	ਰੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਰਲਾ	ਰੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਏਕੜ
1	(ਦੋ ਕਿੱਲੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ) ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ	9467/-	1514700/-
2	ਆਬਾਦੀ	37800/-	-----
3	ਵਪਾਰਕ	50500/-	-----
4	ਗੈਰ. ਨਾਲਾ	9467/-	1514700/-
5	ਮੋਨ ਰੋਡ ਤੋਂ 2:2 ਕਿੱਲੇ ਅੰਦਰ	36816/-	5890500/-

ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਤਹਿਸੀਲਦਾਰ ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ ਰਕਬਾ ਮੋਨ ਰੋਡ ਤੋਂ 2:2 ਕਿੱਲੇ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। 2:2 ਕਿੱਲੇ ਵਿਚ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਰਕਬੇ ਨੂੰ 5890500 ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਏਕੜ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਣਾ ਯੋਗ ਹੈ।

ਪਿੰਡ ਮੁਸਾਹਿਬਪੁਰ

ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਵਿਚ ਐਕੁਆਇਰ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਕਬੇ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ ਚਾਹੀ/ਬਰਾਨੀ ਅਤੇ ਗੈਰ ਮੁਮਕਿਨ ਰਸਤਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਇਸ ਪਿੰਡ ਨੂੰ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਕਿਸਮਵਾਰ ਰੇਟ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਯੋਗ ਹਨ:-

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	ਕਿਸਮ ਰਕਬਾ	ਰੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਰਲਾ	ਰੇਟ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਏਕੜ
1	(ਦੋ ਕਿੱਲੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ) ਚਾਹੀ/ਨਹਿਰੀ/ਬਰਾਨੀ	30359/-	4857440/-
2	ਗੈਰ ਰਸਤਾ	10519/-	1683000/-
3	2:2 ਕਿੱਲੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਰਕਬਾ ਮੋਨ ਰੋਡ ਤੋਂ	36816/-	5890500/-
4	ਵਪਾਰਕ	54700/-	-----
5	ਆਬਾਦੀ	48231/-	-----

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਪਿੰਡਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਕਿਸਮਵਾਰ ਰੇਟਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਐਕਟ ਦੀ ਧਾਰਾ 20F ਦੀ ਧਾਰਾ 1989 (4) ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਮਾਲਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਦੋ ਅਖਬਾਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਪਬਲਿਸ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਣਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਇਹ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਪਿੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਮਾਲਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ।

ਮਿਤੀ:

ਸਹੀ/- ਉਪ ਮੰਡਲ ਮੈਜਿਸਟਰੇਟ-ਕਮ-
ਲੈਂਡ ਐਕੁਜ਼ੀਸ਼ਨ ਕੁਲੈਕਟਰ,
ਰੇਲਵੇ, ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ।

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Looking ahead

Farmers, Centre must find common ground

AS the dawn of 2025 brings hopes for change, Punjab's farmers must reflect on their strategies and open the door for constructive dialogue with the Centre. The year gone by, marked by relentless protests and the steadfast hunger strike of Jagjit Singh Dallewal for over a month now, has highlighted the farmers' demands — some just and deserving, but others simply blackmail. However, the frequent bandhs and road and rail blocks have also significantly disrupted public life, testing the patience of the very people whose support they depend upon. The peasants' commitment to their cause is undeniable. The success of the latest Punjab bandh on Monday underscored solidarity within the state, but at a steep cost — railway cancellations, road closures and economic disruptions. Such methods risk alienating broader public sympathy. Prolonged stalemates only exacerbate frustrations on all sides, delaying solutions that could address genuine grievances.

The Centre, too, must adopt a more empathetic approach, shedding bureaucratic inertia. Invitations for talks should not be viewed as concessions but as avenues to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. The Supreme Court's involvement has spotlighted the urgency of resolving these issues, but judicial mandates alone cannot heal the growing rift between the state and its agrarian backbone.

Punjab's dominant agrarian economy forms the backbone of the nation's food security. However, its farmers remain mired in challenges like diminishing returns, rising debts and an overdependence on wheat and paddy as also land degradation and desertification. Collaborations with policy experts, agricultural economists and political stakeholders could pave the way for innovative solutions, whether in agro-industrial integration or financial safeguards for the peasants. The new year must signal an end to hardened positions. By embracing dialogue and pragmatism, Punjab's cultivators and the Centre can together lay the groundwork for lasting agricultural prosperity and societal harmony.

Children in peril

Kapurthala trafficking case a wake-up call

A country aspiring to become 'Viksit' (developed) by 2047 has a job to do right now — protect its children from traffickers and middlemen. Otherwise, these kids — the nation's future — would be left psychologically scarred for life. A horrifying case has been reported from Punjab's Kapurthala district. Eleven children, now rescued by the police, were made to work on a potato farm as enslaved labourers. Two agents who allegedly trafficked the children from Bihar are also accused of sexually abusing one of them and pushing her into prostitution.

The incident has come to light days after a businessman running a packaging company in Maharashtra's Thane district was booked for allegedly making children work as labourers. Unfortunately, kids remain vulnerable to exploitation even though there are myriad laws aimed at ensuring deterrence. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below 14 years in any occupation; those in the age group of 14 to 18 years cannot be forced to work in hazardous occupations where their health and safety are at risk. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act have strict provisions as well, but enforcement leaves a lot to be desired.

Timely response to complaints about child labour holds the key to curbing this scourge. Synergy between Central and state governments — and among the states too — is another prerequisite. In many cases, it's poverty that drives parents to take desperate measures. They force their kids into labour to support the family; this not only disrupts the children's studies but also exposes them to the big, bad world. Targeted welfare schemes must go hand in hand with efforts to strengthen the justice delivery system. Let no one's childhood be ruined, for that would be a great loss to the entire nation.

ON THIS DAY...50 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

CHANDIGARH, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1975

Books for the masses

WHETHER the public can be made book-minded by the sale of books through post offices and petrol pumps, as suggested by Information and Broadcasting Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, is doubtful. The proposition is as unreal as the question whether sophistication can be injected among those living in sub-human and slum conditions. Why the minister has petrol pumps in mind for the promotion of books is difficult to say. Maybe, he wants to compensate them for the reduced oil demand after the recent price hikes. The reading habit is something that grows with literacy and the purchasing power of people. It is a habit that partly comes naturally and is partly acquired. In the prevailing struggle for survival, the educated Indian is hardly left with any money to satisfy his thirst for knowledge. Whatever little urge lingers is finished because of the high prices of books. So the simple remedy for promoting the reading habit lies in the production of cheap and good quality books. This is a challenge to publishers and the government as well as to the creative authors in English, Hindi and regional languages. Apart from the lack of initiative and honesty, there has been much lopsided thinking in the book publishing field at all levels. The publisher's main interest is to make a quick buck, often at the cost of authors and readers. The government, on its part, has made matters worse by haphazard bans on the import of books. True, foreign exchange is precious and has to be saved for crude and all that. But then the inadequacies of our books programme cannot be taken care of by slogan-mongering.

OPINION

Time ripe for bold economic reforms

The 2025-26 Budget should be used as a launch pad for special initiatives



SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN
SENIOR FINANCIAL JOURNALIST

THE new year has arrived with many challenges on the economic horizon. The one that looms most darkly is the geopolitical turmoil prevailing in several parts of the world. Another one is the inauguration of Donald Trump as US President and the multifarious concerns over policy changes by the global economic superpower. These will have a broad international impact, but there will also be outcomes for India.

On the domestic front, all eyes will be on the new head of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Sanjay Malhotra, and his approach to inflation and growth. And as the Modi government prepares to present the second Budget of its third term, it will have to deepen reforms in order to slash the regulatory cholesterol that is clogging the route to higher economic growth.

The way forward must be viewed in the sombre context of the passing of several luminaries critically involved in the country's economic development. The most significant loss has been that of the architect of the 1991 economic reforms, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The late Osamu Suzuki, long-time chairman of Japan's Suzuki Motor Company, took a bet on the over-regulated Indian economy in the mid-1980s. The gamble not only paid off for the company, but it also became the catalyst for the development of an automobile industry which now accounts for over 40 per cent of the manufacturing sector.

For the domestic industry,



PRIORITY: It is imperative to give a push to investments in all segments of the economy. ANI

the biggest blow came in October when corporate titan Ratan Tata breathed his last. The unlikely, soft-spoken successor to the flamboyant JRD ended up galvanising and expanding the house of Tatas to make it the largest conglomerate in the country.

These giants in the economic and business arena contributed to the current status of India as the fastest-growing major economy in the world. Yet, as one looks ahead, there are worries that this pace may not be maintained in 2025. From 8.2 per cent growth in 2023-24, the current fiscal's figure is likely to be lower. The second quarter — July to September — recorded a seven-month low of 4.5 per cent. Though there are expectations of a pickup in the third quarter along with reports of reviving consumption, the economy continues to face headwinds. The most worrying of these is the prospect of an escalation in geopolitical tensions. The Ukraine-Russia war proceeds relentlessly and the downing of an Azerbaijani airline indicates that these hostilities will continue to have ramifications for the rest of the world.

As for the Gaza conflict, it has not had widespread economic

The pace of cutting down regulations and procedures at the Central and state levels must be stepped up.

repercussions so far, but has the potential to create even more havoc. So far, the hostilities have extended to Lebanon and Iran, though in a limited manner. In case the latter becomes embroiled in a wider way, it would have a direct impact on energy prices and availability. Attacks on Iran's oil and gas production or storage facilities are bound to have a bearing on international prices. Currently, oil markets are in the grip of

bearish trends and prices of the benchmark Brent crude are hovering around \$72-74 per barrel. But this situation could alter dramatically if the conflict widens to neighbouring West Asian countries that are oil producers. This could lead to a spike in oil prices, which would, in turn, have an immediate fallout here in terms of pushing up the oil import bill, while simultaneously raising inflationary pressures.

Another concern is the impact of tariff barriers sought to be imposed by the incoming Trump administration. Though the actual contours of his new trade policy are yet to be unveiled, he has declared that reciprocity would be a major element in formulating tariff proposals. While his greatest ire has been reserved for China and there have even been threats of levying up to 60 per cent import duties, he has also been sharply critical of India's high tariff barriers. For this country, it means that the creeping increase in import duties over the past two years may have to be halted or even reversed as otherwise Indian goods may end up being uncompetitive in the lucrative American market. The worries

on this score are justified as Trump has described India as "a very big abuser of tariffs" and stressed that such taxes will invite reciprocity.

On the plus side, the easing of protectionist tendencies is only for the good. On the negative side, it is not yet known whether the new Trump administration will enable Indian goods to have an edge in the US market vis-à-vis other countries like China. Much will depend on the final shape of trade policies formulated by the new administration.

As for raising the pace of growth, the role of the new RBI chief will be critical. His approach to the entire 'inflation versus growth' conundrum is eagerly awaited in the run-up to the next monetary policy committee meeting. A lot will depend on whether inflation continues to moderate in the coming months. It has already cooled down to 5.48 per cent in November along with a dip in food inflation, raising hopes of a rate cut that would give an impetus to investment and growth.

The next big policy push of the government will be outlined in the upcoming Budget. This might be a coalition government, but major constituents like the Telugu Desam Party have been in favour of reforms. It would thus be the right time to step up the pace of cutting down regulations and procedures at the Central and state levels. The complexity of rules related to labour and land use are major hurdles for foreign and domestic investors. A new wave of reforms in this direction is needed to give a push to investments in all segments of the economy.

The 2025-26 Budget should be used as a launch pad for such measures. These should be viewed in the backdrop of the growing recognition that without bold policies, it will not be possible to raise growth to the level of 8-9 per cent. One can only hope the new year ushers in such fresh initiatives.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

My motto is — trade, not aid. Aid is a crutch. Trade builds pride. — PV Narasimha Rao

India Gate missing its heartbeat

AIR VICE MARSHAL MANMOHAN BAHADUR (RETD)

THE 1971 war marked the coming of age of the Indian military after the fiasco of 1962 and a significant improvement witnessed during the 1965 war. The Amar Jawan Jyoti was installed at India Gate in New Delhi. It served as a reminder of the deeds of brave Indians. There was live telecast of the Prime Minister paying homage to them every year before the Republic Day parade. India Gate became synonymous with the Amar Jawan and became a part of folk culture. The lay citizen came to pay respects and thereafter took in the unique festive environment that had evolved after the commissioning of the 'eternal flame'.

Children played merrily, balloon sellers peddled their wares and tourists clicked pictures with India Gate and its 'eternal flame' in the background. Movies were shot there, and the patriotic feelings of citizens found a unique way of expression. Remember the popular song "Apni toh paathshala, masti ki paathshala..." from the cult movie 'Rang De Basanti', in which a group of youngsters drive around the India Gate, saluting the 'eternal flame'?

The commemoration of the 1971 war now happens at the National War Memorial (NWM), as the 'eternal flame' of India Gate has been moved and merged with the 'eternal flame' at the NWM. The war memorial is all-encompassing and does justice to Indians who made the supreme sacrifice in every war since Independence. Their names are etched in its hallowed portals, and one cannot but get emotional seeing their near and dear ones in tears on spotting their names — what memories and thoughts must be passing through their minds.

On this Vijay Diwas, too, wreaths were laid at the war memorial by representatives of a grateful nation. The same would have happened at India Gate also if the 'eternal flame' was present there. An added advantage would have been that the common man, too, would have got a chance to pay his respects due to its easy accessibility to one and all — something missing in the NWM due to its location. Be that as it may, the solemnity of Vijay Diwas is not reduced one bit by the site of the commemorative place — it is just that India Gate had a 'common man feel'.

So, as the nation commemorated the iconic happening on December 16, this writer, who was a Class XI student 53 years ago, could not but remember being glued to All India Radio and listening to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi inform the world, "Dacca is the free capital of a free country." Little did she realise that India Gate's 'eternal flame' would imbue that World War I monument with a nationalistic cult status — and a unique 'India Gate feeling' that, alas, is now missing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Insult to ex-PM's memory

Refer to 'Disgraceful row'; the editorial is a rebuke to the politicians who are insulting the memory of Dr Manmohan Singh. The conduct of the ruling party and the Opposition is equally disgraceful. The seeds of economic reforms were sown by him and everyone is reaping the benefits today. Politicians from Punjab are crying foul over the lack of proper honour given to Dr Singh during his last journey, but none of them could find a parliamentary seat for him in the state (he served as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Assam and Rajasthan). He wasn't an accidental Prime Minister but an accidental politician and it is difficult for any academician of his merit to withstand political turbulence.

ONKAR SINGH PARMAR, LUDHIANA

Dr Singh's visionary leadership

Apropos of 'The man who made the middle class affluent'; Dr Manmohan Singh's tenure was a transformative period for India's middle class. His economic policies not only tripled their average income but also elevated their standard of living, aspirations and global competitiveness. This was a golden era for professionals and the managerial class as opportunities abounded and they flourished. As India continues to grapple with economic challenges, the legacy of Dr Singh serves as a reminder of the power of visionary leadership and the importance of policies that prioritise growth with inclusivity. For the middle class, his decade of leadership remains a landmark.

GAURAV BADHWAR, ROHTAK

Magnet to draw top talent

With reference to 'H-1B visa issue'; both President-elect Trump and Elon Musk had weighed in for quality immigration by declaring their support for H-1B visas that would let in talented programmers and other white-collar workers. Musk had even described H-1B as a magnet to draw top talented engineers. Immigration was among the most contentious issues in the presidential election, and Trump's strong stance against illegal migrants may have helped him emerge victorious. The H-1B visa regime is meant to provide avenues for companies to hire skilled labour. The government must not sit by amid the rising hostility towards Indians.

SK SINGH, BY MAIL

Leaders must address issues

Refer to 'Trump's threats portend turbulence'; while his approach seeks to redefine trade policies in favour of the US, it risks undermining global stability and economic partnerships. His aggressive rhetoric could alienate allies, isolating the US on the global stage. India must tread cautiously, balancing its interests while navigating the changing dynamics. Trump's unpredictable policies might offer opportunities for growth in bilateral trade but could also lead to unforeseen challenges. The world must strive for collaboration, not unilateralism, to address pressing issues like economic inequality and geopolitical tensions. A focus on dialogue, mutual respect and sustainable development is the need of the hour.

ANUPAM MEHNDIRATTA, CHANDIGARH

Trump is disrupting trade norms

Apropos of 'Trump's threats portend turbulence'; Donald Trump's use of tariffs to pressure allies like Canada, Denmark and Panama is troubling. Such actions reflect an expansionist policy aimed at achieving geopolitical objectives through economic coercion rather than diplomacy. Threatening Canada over trade disputes, Panama for its strategic importance and Denmark for rejecting the sale of Greenland undermines trust among long-standing allies and disrupts global trade norms. This approach risks destabilising international relations, prioritising dominance over cooperation. It is crucial for global institutions to counter these aggressive tactics and uphold the principles of mutual respect and fairness.

BALBIR SINGH KAKKAR, JALANDHAR

World needs leaders like Carter

Refer to 'Jimmy focussed more on doing good than on doing well'; Jimmy Carter was committed to the principles of peace, diplomacy and international cooperation. He worked to eradicate disease, forge peace, advance civil and human rights, promote free and fair elections and shelter the homeless. He saved and changed the lives of people all across the globe. Leaders like Carter alone can save the world from the humanitarian catastrophe triggered by the Gaza conflict and the Ukraine-Russia war. No solution seems to be in the offing as global leaders no longer believe in resolving conflicts through diplomacy. His death is a huge loss to humanity at large.

ROSHAN LAL GOEL, LADWA

Self-punishment politics in Tamil Nadu



SOUTH SIDE
NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

A S a form of political practice, the threat or act of self-punishment has a long and dubious tradition in Tamil Nadu. No political leader has self-immolated or threatened to do so yet, but there was this minister in Jayalalithaa's Cabinet, a karate champion, who tied himself to a cross and reportedly had nails hammered into his palm for a few minutes to demonstrate his loyalty to her. Others in her Cabinet are known to have carried pots of burning coals. A woman minister, wearing a skirt of neem leaves, rolled on the ground in the precincts of a temple. Entertaining as all this is, it's not clear if such acts ever impressed the intended audience. So, when K Annamalai, president of the Tamil Nadu unit of the BJP, decided to whip himself in protest against the sexual assault of a student at Anna University, sure enough, social media audiences brought out the popcorn (salted only) for the meme fest that followed. But no words of sympathy or fellow feeling came from the divided house that the Tamil

Nadu BJP is. One rival within suggested that it would have been more appropriate for Annamalai to have been given a few lashes by party leaders in Delhi. No words of support whatsoever came from the high command. As it seeks to make a dent in Tamil Nadu's Dravidian armour, the BJP has tried various ploys. The charge of atheism and "anti-Sanatani" tops the list. But, as the last parliamentary elections showed, that failed to win a single seat for the BJP, with the DMK sweeping up all 39 seats. Even Annamalai, despite the build-up he got from national television channels, could not win the Coimbatore seat. For sure, the party got its highest ever vote share of 11.38 per cent. But this was also the first time it had contested more than half the seats in the state, in alliance with the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and a break-away group of the AIADMK. With the PMK leadership's father-son troubles coming to the fore in a very public way, the future of this caste-based party's alliance with Hindutva is uncertain. Simply put, nothing, including the search for the right alliance partners, has worked for the BJP in Tamil Nadu. The AIADMK has held back steadfastly. Elections are still months away — due only in May 2026. But the word is that AIADMK boss



PLOY: K Annamalai whipped himself in protest against the sexual assault of a student. **AN**

Edappadi Palaniswami has already made a preliminary approach to actor Vijay, the latest entrant on the block and a megastar with a fan following that does not have to be paid to attend public rallies. Some within the BJP believe that it was a mistake not to weaponise the 'rettai illai' or two leaves symbol against the AIADMK after it was frozen in 2017 in the wake of post-Jayalalithaa splits in the party. Some wonder why the threat or promise of the famed BJP 'washing machine' has not yet been deployed in this state. Trying to turn the Anna University rape case into a political storm, Kolkata style, was a gamble. The alleged rape of a stu-

Whipping oneself is no act of Hindu penance in Tamil Nadu, as some admirers up north have sought to describe it.

dent of Anna University in Chennai took place on December 24 when the woman was in the company of a male college mate in a secluded corner of the campus. The alleged rapist was known to the local police as a "history-sheeter", but he seems to have had a free pass into the prestigious institution. He threatened the male companion into leaving the place and proceeded to assault the woman, videoed his crime and threatened her with blackmail. If the security measures at the university were found wanting, the police did not cover themselves in glory either. The First Information Report was uploaded and made accessible to the public, with the victim's name,

her address and contact details. The manner in which the FIR is worded questions the training of the police personnel at the all-woman police station where the woman made the complaint. Shocking as this is, let's face it. Tamil Nadu is not a state with a high incidence of crimes against women. And, the BJP which rules states like Uttarakhand and Haryana where the incidence of such crimes far outstrips the national rate, can hardly point a finger. Even BJP insiders here say they have no answer when they are asked why the PM has not visited Manipur yet. The surfacing of a photograph of the accused with Udhanidhi Stalin, the newly anointed Deputy Chief Minister and second-generation DMK first family dynast, may have given the BJP and the AIADMK confidence that they had enough ammunition to mount a direct attack. But the Madras High Court's swift order on petitions by AIADMK party members demanding that the case be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation doused the attempt to turn this into a political conflagration for the DMK. The high court directed the setting up of a Special Investigation Team to probe the crime and bring it to prosecution, and the police to pay Rs 25 lakh to the victim for making her identity

public. It asked Anna University to bear the full cost of her further education at the institute. While Annamalai charged that the state had become unsafe for women and announced that he was taking up the case as the 'brother' of the woman who had been assaulted, the woman herself was confident enough to take her complaint to the police the very next day, with a university official by her side. For Annamalai, back from a sabbatical at Oxford University where he went after the BJP's anticlimactic Lok Sabha elections, his failure to whip Tamil Nadu into a frenzy with his self-flagellation is hardly the comeback he might have hoped for. In any case, whipping oneself is no act of Hindu penance in Tamil Nadu, as some admirers up north have sought to describe it. Lord Muruga's bhakts will hang from hooks, skewer their bodies and cheeks with spears and walk over burning coals. But whipping one's own body is known only as a practice among itinerant alms-seekers. Annamalai, who also announced that he would observe a fast for 48 days and eschew footwear until the DMK was defeated, may be better off eating proper meals and putting his sandals back on for the BJP's rocky journey ahead in Tamil Nadu.

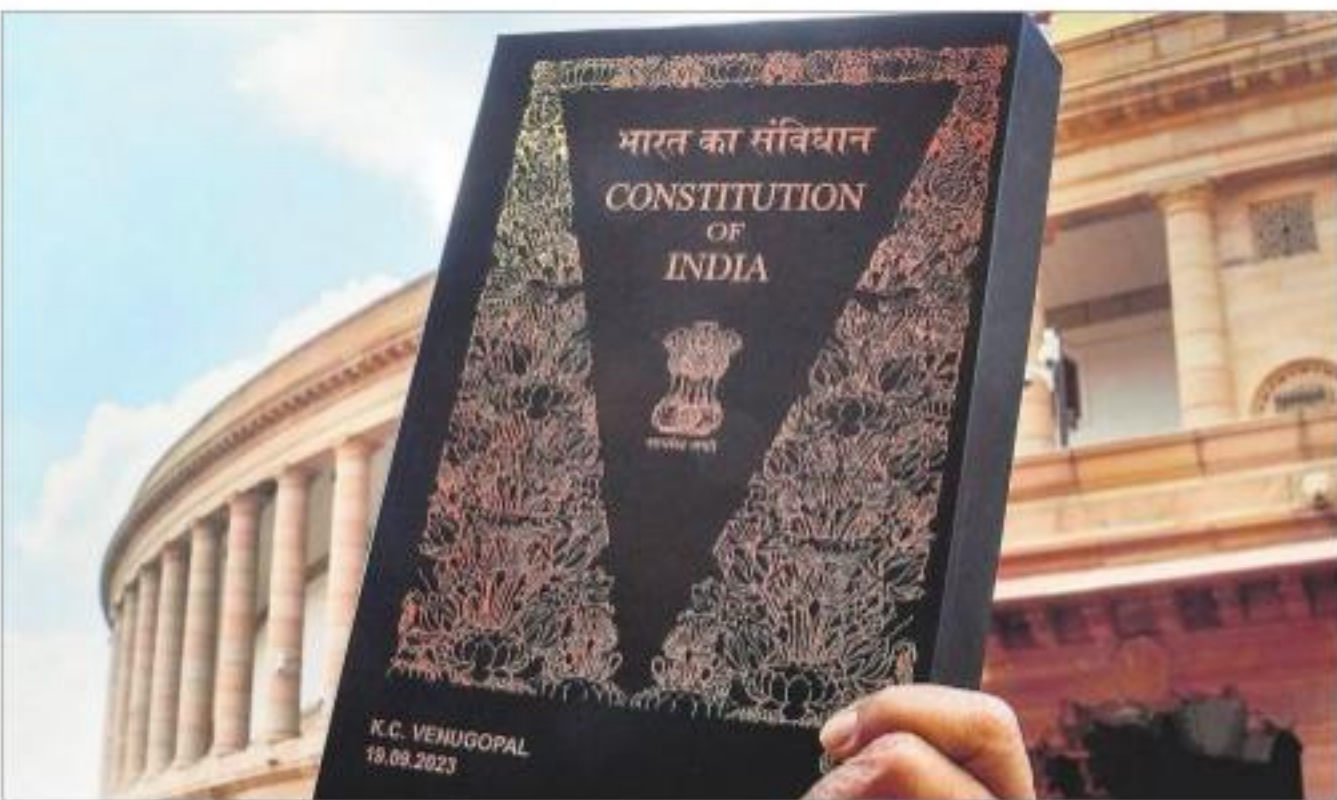
Why a better understanding of First Amendment is needed



AJAY K MEHRA
POLITICAL SCIENTIST

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi opened the discussion in the Lok Sabha on 75 years of the Constitution on December 14, 2024, by criticising India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru for bringing the first constitutional amendment even before the first Lok Sabha was elected. Modi said: "This country didn't have an elected government from 1947 to 1952. A temporary system, a selected government was in place. Elections were not held. An interim government was in place until the elections. Before 1952, the Rajya Sabha was also not formed. There were no elections in states as well." The Prime Minister is partially right. The first amendment of the Constitution was passed by the provisional parliament before the first General Election was held. Was it Nehru's precipitous move to bring this amendment in May-June 1951, or was it a rational decision taken by the Cabinet? Law

Minister BR Ambedkar was still in the Cabinet and his ministry must have drafted it in consultation with him. The government in place from 1947-52 faced constitutional roadblocks as the judiciary intervened in some crucial cases. The cases included those relating to making special provisions for protective discrimination [Article 15(3)], freedom of speech [Article 19(1a)] in *Romesh Thappar vs the State of Madras* case on May 26, 1950, and carrying forward several of its initiatives relating to the abolition of the zamindari system (Article 31) in order to fulfil its promises to the people of India. Thus, the "right to hold, acquire or dispose of the property" was a crucial one that the government thought would have to be balanced with prominence to the community rights of social and economic equality. The substance of the First Amendment to the Indian Constitution dealt with the fundamental right to property enshrined in Articles 19(1)(f) and 31. The Bill was introduced on May 12, 1951, and enacted on June 18, 1951, even before the elections for the first Lok Sabha were held (on April 17, 1952) and the Rajya Sabha was constituted. On September 10, 1949, amendments to draft Arti-



BEFORE FIRST ELECTION: The Bill for the First Amendment to the Indian Constitution was introduced on May 12, 1951, and enacted a month later. **PI**

cle 24 (Article 31) were discussed. Nehru moved the amendment stating that the possession of private property was given the protection of 'authority of law'. Any 'compulsory' acquisition of property for public purposes must have 'compensation' — a specified amount — or the principles on which and the manner in which the compensation is to be determined have to be built into the law authorising acquisition. He was absolutely clear that "there is no question of any expropriation without compensation so far as this Constitution is concerned". These conditions would be applied both to the Union and state governments. He

The Nehru-led government, in place from 1947-52, faced constitutional roadblocks as the judiciary intervened in crucial cases.

did not see any conflict between "individual right to property and the community's interest in that property or the community's right". He explained that the amendment he moved reassures acquisition and maintenance of private property, but he appeared to foresee the need for acquisition of small or big chunks of private property for community purposes. In his view, the rights, the interests and welfare of the community override the individual rights. He asserted the authority of Parliament, not of the judiciary, to fix the principles to be laid down for a fair payment of compensation: "Parliament fixes

either the compensation itself or the principles governing that compensation and they should not be challenged except for one reason, where it is thought that there has been a gross abuse of the law, where in fact there has been a fraud on the Constitution. Naturally the judiciary comes in to see that any Parliament representing the entire community of the nation will certainly not commit a fraud on its own Constitution and will be very much concerned with doing justice to the individual as well as the community." (CAD, Book No. 4, Vol. IX, p. 1195). Thus, a large part of the letter and substance of Nehru's draft for Article 24 was incorporated in the Constitution as Article 31, guaranteeing private property to the citizens of India. Speaking strongly for abolishing the zamindari system, Nehru stated: "It has been ... the old policy of the ... Congress ... that the zamindari institution in India ... must be abolished. So far as we are concerned ... shall give effect to that pledge naturally completely ... and no change is going to come in our way.... Within limits no judge and no Supreme Court can make itself a third chamber. No Supreme Court and no judiciary can stand in judgement over the sovereign

will of the Parliament representing the will of the entire community." (p. 1197). Thus, during the course of the presentation of the amendment that led to the finalisation of Article 31, the stage was set for the First Amendment. Both the content and substance of the arguments presented by Nehru made it clear that community interest within the boundaries of 'fair compensation' will prevail. Another important reason for the First Amendment was to 'qualify' the freedom of speech and expression as the executive orders for banning the *Cross Roads*, that Romesh Thappar edited, were shot down. As the Nehru government had taken exception to the *Organiser*, a publication of the RSS, that had been publishing articles against Pakistan that were communal in nature and were affecting the community relations in the country, it came under pressure regarding the *Cross Roads*, too. The First Amendment added 'public order', 'incitement to an offence' and 'friendly relations with foreign states' to the already existing grounds of restriction in Article 19(2). Since the *Organiser* came under its ambit, the Prime Minister's ire is understandable. Indeed, we need a better understanding of the First Amendment.

QUICK CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1 Intense (5)

8 Suffer humiliation (4,4)

9 Tremble (5)

10 Tactfully ascertain views of (5,3)

11 Well-defined (5)

12 Special aptitude (3)

16 Happy (6)

17 An excursion (6)

18 Dried grass as fodder (3)

23 Solidarity of purpose (5)

24 Biased (3-5)

25 Express readiness (5)

26 Flatter grossly (6,2)

27 Proceed aimlessly (5)

Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Carbon copy, 6 Nail, 10 Guilt, 11 Anomalous, 12 Meaning, 13 Deter, 15 Average, 17 Devious, 19 Related, 21 Parlour, 22 Hoard, 24 Situated, 27 Negotiate, 28 Trial, 29 Even, 30 In one piece.

Down: 1 Cogs, 2 Raise hell, 3 Often, 4 Chalice, 5 Proceed, 7 Adopt, 8 Last resort, 9 Hand over, 14 Fair chance, 16 Antidote, 18 On one side, 20 Disdain, 21 Pattern, 23 Argue, 25 Act up, 26 Flue.

SU DO KU

2 1 5 6

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2 Understood what was meant (6,2)

3 Become established (4,4)

4 Good name (6)

5 River of Paris (5)

6 More important (5)

7 Author of Ode to a Nightingale (5)

12 Tree of olive family (3)

13 To trifle (3)

14 Represent (5,3)

15 Intrinsically (2,6)

19 Wide street (6)

20 Uncertainty (5)

21 Small-minded (5)

22 Split by force (5)

MEDIUM

FORECAST

SUNSET: 17:33 HRS

SUNRISE: 07:38 HRS

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

CITY

MAX

MIN

Chandigarh 14 10

New Delhi 17 08

Amritsar 15 10

Bathinda 15 06

Jalandhar 15 10

Ludhiana 15 08

Bhiwani 17 07

Hisar 16 07

Sirsa 18 07

Dharamsala 20 05

Manali 12 02

Shimla 15 06

Srinagar 06 -02

Jammu 20 06

Kargil 0 -13

Leh 01 -10

Dehradun 23 10

Mussoorie 17 06

CALENDAR

JANUARY 1, 2025, WEDNESDAY

Shaka Samvat 1946

Posh Shaka 11

Posh Parvishite 18

Hijari 1446

Shukla Paksha Tithi 2, up to 2.25 am

Vyagatha Yoga up to 5.06 pm

Uttarashadha Nakshatra up to 11.46 pm

Moon in Capricorn sign

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Need experienced Quality Engineer for a Machining Unit at Village Behra, Derabassi. 98726-85267. (CL24089021)

Khalisa College For Women, Sidhwan Khurd (Ludhiana). Walk-in-interview on 04.01.2025 at 09:30 am for the full time post of Assistant Professor in Physical Education-1 purely Adhoc basis for the session 2024-25. M. No. 98788-94055, 01624-234967. (CL24089084)

Talent Tree School Mehram, Haryana requires: Co-ordinator, PGT (all subjects), TGT (all subjects), ART (all subjects), Mother Teachers, Assistant Teachers, Professional Coach (Art & Craft, Music, Dance, D.P.), Language Instructor, Receptionist, Accountant, Librarian, Lab Assistant, Graphics Designer, Admin Officer, Clerk, Supervisor and Transport In-charge. For more details, visit our website: www.talenttree.org or contact 92540-49405, 92540-49406, 92540-49407. Well-qualified candidates with excellent communication skills and send their resume to ttsmeham@gmail.com and attend walk-in-interview on 11-12 January 2025. Salary no bar for deserving candidates. AC transport facility from Rohtak. Accommodation for outstation candidates. (CL24089005)

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Polytechnic College, Patti, District Tarn Taran, Requires Assistant Professors in Engg. in CSE/ Mechanical/ Electrical. Also requires M.A. (English), M.Sc. (Physics/ Chemistry/ Maths), Librarian. Salary & qualification as per AICTE/ PSBTE & IT/ Punjab Govt. norms. Interested candidates may send their resume within 10 days to sbspoly@yahoo.com, 99148-14968. (CL24089069)

Satyam Institute, Ram Tirath, Amritsar, Requires: Administrator, Hostel Warden (Boys & Girls), Data Entry Operator, Accountant, Marketing Executive, Telecaller Executive, IT Professional, Apply within 10 days at Email sietoffice@satyaminstitute.ac.in, Mobile: 84370-75072. (CL24089073)

Satyam Institute, Ram Tirath, Amritsar, Requires: Professor/ Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor CSE, EEE, Civil, ME, Chemistry, Physics, Math, English, Medical Lab Science, Radiology & Imaging Technology, Operation Theatre Technology. Qualification as per AICTE/ IKGPTU rules. Apply within 10 days at Email: sietoffice@satyaminstitute.ac.in Mobile: 84370-75072. (CL24089074)

JMK International School (CBSE) Banuti, Shimla, Boarding & Day Boarding, Requires Teaching Staff: PRTs- 2, TGTs- English- 1, Social Science- 1, Mathematics- 1, Science- 1, IT- 1, Hindi/ Sanskrit- 1, Librarian- 1, B.P.Ed./ PET- 1, Non-Teaching Staff: Receptionist-cum-Admission Counselor- 1, LDC/ Accountant- 1, Peon- 1, Sweepers- 2, Aaya/ Maid (for Kindergarten)- 1, Hostel Staff: Warden (Male)- 1, Warden (Female)- 1, Nurse- 1, Cook- 1, Waiters- 2, Washers- 2, Driver- 1. Send your resume before 5th January on jmksschoolshimla@gmail.com or contact: 98168-15884. (CL24089101)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Usha Gupta W/o Subhash Gupta R/o Krishna Nagar, Gali No. 9, Khanna, changed my name to Sunita Gupta. (CL24089049)

I, Ashok Kumar Dhalwal S/o Nafe Singh Dhalwal R/o House No. 1870, Ground Floor, Co-Operative Housing Society, Near PCA Stadium, Sector 64, SAS Nagar, Mohali (Pb.) 160062, have changed my name from Ashok Kumar Dhalwal to Ashok Kumar Dhalwal. All concerned please note. (CL24089051)

I, Lata Rani Dhalwal W/o Ashok Kumar Dhalwal R/o House No. 1870, Ground Floor, Co-Operative Housing Society, Near PCA Stadium, Sector 64, SAS Nagar, Mohali (Pb.) 160062, have changed my name from Lata Rani to Lata Rani Dhalwal. All concerned please note. (CL24089053)

I, Mewa Singh S/o Zora Singh R/o Barhinda, have changed my name to Mewa Singh Sidhu. (CL24089105)

I, Mohammad Salik S/o Dara Khan R/o Delhi Gate Malerkotla, Distt. Malerkotla (Punjab), have changed my name to Mohammad Salik Khan. (CL24089106)

I, Jasbir Singh S/o Maya Chand R/o House No. 1615, FF, Sector 26, Panchkula, Tehsil & Distt. Panchkula, Haryana 134116 have changed my name from Amarjit Singh to Jasbir Singh. All concerned please note. (CL24089059)

I, Ram Singh Son of Ram Kishan Residence of # 1822, Village Burali, Sector 45, Chandigarh presently residing at # 7813, Block-H, Aerocity, Mohali, Punjab declare that I had disowned to my son Manoj Kumar in Hindustan Times and in Dainik Bhaskar publication on 29th August, 2016. Now, they are under my control and they have full rights in my moveable/ immovable property. (CL24089103)

PLOT FOR SALE

Subhash Mangat & Co. for sale-purchase of plots in Aerocity & IT City Mohali. Contact: 97811-13377, 97811-23377. (CL24089065)

Subhash Mangat & Co. Aerotropolis residential & commercial LOIs for sale Mohali. 97811-13377, 97811-23377. (CL24089066)

Subhash Mangat & Co. Mohali IT City 1 kanal top most location plot for sale Mohali. 97811-13377, 97811-23377. (CL24089067)

Subhash Mangat & Co. IT City 104 sq. yards corner, facing park Plot No. 97/ 66-B for sale Mohali. 97811-13377, 97811-23377. (CL24089068)

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Subhash Mangat & Co. 1 kanal new construction Sector 8, 16, 27, 33, old Sector 10, corner Sector 11, B-Road Sector 21, corner Sector 27, 33, duplex Sector 38, Chandigarh. 70900-45000. (CL24089076)

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Panchkula: Sector 2, one kanal, old liveable kothi. Facing East. Good location. Contact: 93161-12756. (CL24089071)

MOHALI

JLPL 1 kanal industrial plot very good location. Subhash Mangat & Co. 97811-13377, 97811-23377. (CL24089072)

COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Sh. Sachin Yadav
Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.),
Chandigarh
Union Bank of India
Vs.
Naresh Bhandari
For recovery of Rs.
49,102.57/-
CNR No.
CHCH02-003493-2021
Next Date: 21.01.2025
Publication issued to:
Naresh Bhandari Father:
Ashok Bhandari, H.No: 79/A,
Dashmesh Nagar, Naya
Gaon, Village Karoran, Tehsil
Kharar, District SAS Nagar,
Punjab.
In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 21.01.2025 at 10:00 a.m.
For details logon to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=chandigarh
Dated, this day of 20.12.2024
Sd/- Sachin Yadav
Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.),
CL24089045 Chandigarh.
(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Sh. Ankit Airi
Civil Judge Jr. Div.,
Chandigarh
Pooja Mehta @ Pooja
Miglani
Vs.
General Public
CNR No.
CHCH02-001711-2024
Next Date:- 11.02.2025
Publication issued to:
General Public
In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 11.02.2025 at 10:00 a.m.
For details logon to
https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=chandigarh
Dated, this day of
05.12.2024.
Sd/-
Civil Judge Jr. Div.,
CL24089061 Chandigarh
In the High Court of
Punjab and Haryana
at Chandigarh
Civil Writ Jurisdiction
CWP No. 25828 of 2022
State Bank of India ...Petitioner(s)
Vs/
Permanent Lok Adalat Fatehgarh
Sahib and Ons.
...Respondent(s)
Notice to:
3. M/s Katco Food Test and
Research, Kashmir Complex, G.T.
Road Doraha, District Ludhiana
through its authorized signatory.
Whereas a petition under Article
226/227 of the Constitution of
India, wherein you have been
joined as respondent and it is
proved to the satisfaction of this
Court that the above named
respondent cannot be served in the
ordinary manner.
Notice is hereby issued against
him for 17.01.2025 (Actual date)
and that if you wish to urge
anything in reply to the petition,
you may appear in this Court on
that date, and file your statement 3
days before that day either in person
or through any Advocate duly
instructed.
Take notice that in default of
your appearance on the date
aforementioned the case shall be
heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal
of the court this 21st day of
November 2024.
Sd/- Superintendent (Writs)
for Assistant Registrar (Writs)
CL24089078

The Tribune
CLASSIFIED
THE RIGHT
CHOICE

Katra bandh enters Day 7 as deadlock persists over proposed ropeway plan

ARJUN SHARMA

JAMMU, DECEMBER 31
Katra, the base camp for Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrim, witnessed a shutdown for the seventh consecutive day on Tuesday as the locals continued their protest against the proposed ropeway project in the Trikuta Hills of Reasi district.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti had called for the shutdown on Wednesday, announcing that all activities in Katra would remain suspended. The bandh has disrupted normal life in one of the busiest towns in the country, as thousands of pilgrims arrive in Katra daily to pay obeisance at the cave shrine.

Health Department officials on Tuesday conducted a medical check-up of the youths observing indefinite fast to press for the release of several persons detained during the protests in Katra. One of the fasting youths has been hospitalised.

Several protesters, including Samiti leaders Bhupinder Singh and Sohan Chand,



Women protest during a bandh called by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti in Katra on Tuesday. PTI

were detained and removed from the protest site during Wednesday's march.

Congress' J&K chief Tariq Hameed Karra criticised the L-G-led administration, accusing it of creating an issue due to its "negative attitude". "It seems there is anarchy in entire J&K as the administration is not ready to listen to the genuine

demands of the people," said Karra. "We do not know who is benefitting from the ropeway project. It is being pursued by the administration despite widespread resistance. The administration should engage with genuine stakeholders," he said.

Karra targeted the BJP, stating that the "party had repeatedly betrayed the people of

J&K and would never support the protesters". Former minister Jugal Kishore, speaking to the media, urged the administration to resolve the issue immediately. "The resolution of this issue should not be delayed, as it has already been a week since so many people have been protesting and shutting down their businesses," he said.



The police place an attachment notice on a property in Rajouri.

J&K cops attach assets of two terror handlers

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, DECEMBER 31

The Jammu and Kashmir Police have attached in Rajouri the properties of two absconding terror handlers currently operating from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), officials said on Tuesday.

The attachment was carried out in the presence of revenue authorities on Monday. The attached land, measuring 7 kanals and 18 marlas, belongs to Ishtiaq Ahmed of

Bhattian village in Thanamandi tehsil, and Zahid Ali Khan of the same village, a police spokesperson said.

"These Pakistan-based terror handlers are accused of activities linked to supporting anti-national elements. The attachment of properties is part of ongoing efforts to dismantle the networks of Pakistan-based handlers and their associates operating in the region. The district police are committed to curbing anti-national activities in Rajouri," he added.

Dallewal to accept medical...

to the Punjab Government for its "failure" to implement the court order to shift Dallewal to a hospital.

On December 28, the two top officers filed separate affidavits explaining their position on the issue. However, the Bench wasn't satisfied.

"We are not satisfied with the efforts of the state of Punjab regarding compliance with the orders dated December 20. Having regard to the assurance by the Advocate General, we are inclined to grant more time to take appropriate steps to comply with the directions. If the state of Punjab requires any assistance, we direct the Centre to give all requisite support to ensure compliance with our directions," it had said.

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Statehood & dual control of power remain crucial issues for Omar govt

ADIL AKHZER

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 31

Though the 2024 Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir fulfilled the long-standing demand for an elected government, the absence of statehood and the dual control of powers remain significant issues for the new government.

In September, J&K saw its first Assembly elections since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Following the results in October, the National Conference (NC) emerged as the single-largest party, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured the highest number of seats in the Jammu region. Consequently, it was the NC that formed the government in the Union Territory (UT).

However, two months after the formation of the government, Valley-based legislators are expressing concerns. They acknowledge the significance of the 2024 elections but are now calling on the Central government to promptly restore statehood and end the dual power centres within the UT.

Kulgam MLA and CPM leader MY Tarigami told *The Tribune* that commitments



The restoration of statehood is a poll promise of Omar Abdullah's NC, FILE

made by the Union Government must be honoured. "What we are suggesting is that statehood,



which is the minimum demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, must be restored," he stated. Tarigami added that the current situation leaves the Assembly disempowered, with both legisla-

tors and the government unclear on their powers. "At a time when expectations are high, the government and legislators are seen as not doing what they are expected to," he noted.

Ever since the government was formed, the absence of clearly defined business rules continues to create tensions between the Raj Bhavan and Omar government. Even as the Omar Abdullah government heads many crucial departments in the present setup, most of them are also headed by IAS officers, which are controlled by Raj Bhavan.

On Kashmir visit, Northern Command chief Lt Gen Kumar reviews security

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 31

Army's Northern Commander Lt General MV Suchindra Kumar visited Kashmir to review the operational preparedness of the troops in the Valley. "Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar visited Chinar Corps to review the operational preparedness of the formation," the Northern Command of the

Compliments troops for anti-terror ops

Army posted on its X handle. Lt Gen Kumar complimented the troops for successful anti-terrorist operations in the valley. "The Army Commander complimented all ranks for successful conduct of counter terrorist operations and exhorted all ranks to maintain professionalism in conduct of operations," it added.

The visit of top Army officer comes after the recent success of anti-militancy operations in the Valley. Top Hizbul commander Farooq Ahmed Bhat was among the five militants killed in an operation in Kulgam on December 19.

FROM PAGE 1

MEA promises to provide assistance to Kerala nurse...

In 2018, Priya was sentenced to death by a trial court. Her family has since been fighting for her release. They approached the Supreme Court too, but their appeal was rejected in 2023.

With the President turning down the appeal for clemency on December 30, her release depends on securing

the forgiveness of Mahdi's family and its tribal leaders.

Yemeni media stated that "Priya killed Mahdi with the help of another person and chopped his body into pieces before dumping it into a water tank in her house". She was arrested while attempting to flee Yemen in 2018.

Priya's family and advocacy groups have launched campaigns to save her while her mother, Prema Kumari, is in Sanaa to negotiate with Mahdi's family to secure forgiveness through "blood money". As per the Yemen law, a death penalty can be nullified only if the victim's family agrees to pardon on the

culprit, often in exchange for blood money.

The negotiations to seek pardon for Priya hit a roadblock in September this year when Abdullah Ameer, the Indian Embassy-appointed lawyer, raised a pre-negotiation fee of nearly Rs 17.12 lakh, which he later doubled to

nearly Rs 34.24 lakh. A portion of the amount, raised by the 'Save Nimisha Priya International Action Council' through crowdfunding, was used to pay the first instalment of Rs 17.12 lakh, but a disagreement over the fund transparency has complicated the matter.



Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan during an event at Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. PTI

Sangh mindset: Kerala CM on Maha minister's 'mini Pakistan' remark

vile attack on Kerala and call upon all democratic and secular forces to unite against the Sangh Parivar's hateful propaganda," Vijayan said.

Rane termed Kerala a "mini Pakistan" and claimed that "all terrorists vote for Gandhis", referring to the election victories of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat.

Facing sharp criticism from opposition parties for

his comments, the BJP minister on Monday maintained that Kerala was very much a part of India, and that he was "merely raising issues of religious conversion of Hindus and love jihad in the southern state".

Strongly condemning Rane's statement, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal on Monday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi respond to the controversial remarks made by the Maharashtra minister. — PTI

Right to property can't be brushed aside due to delay: Apex Court

<div style="text-align: center;"> S. No. Name of Work Approx. Cost (Rs.) Bid Security (Rs.) Period of Completion Date of closing & opening </div>						
1	Provision of RCC Box Channel for water supply at K.M. 21/16-17 adjoining Canal Bridge No. 19-A between Station JPS-UKN on JHL-HSR section by Box Pushing Technique under running track in the section of SSE/Works /SAG under ADEN/PTA.	1,56,56,788	2,28,300	06 Months	23.01.2025	
2	Replacement of 1 deep tube well from Koti Tunnel to KLK, construction of Pump House, UG Water tank and laying of DI pipe for water demand at KLK particularly in summer in the section of SSE//WK/LK.	2,16,67,052	2,58,300	12 Months	23.01.2025	
3	Improvement of Rain Water Harvesting System in RPSF 9th Battalion, JUDW under ADEN/JUDW.	5,61,005	11,200	04 Months	23.01.2025	
4	Balance work of CTR(S) of 1.470TKm and TRR (S) of 12.234 TKm of the existing 52Kg 90UTS rails LWR laid on ST/Wooden/CST-9 Sleepers to M+7 density with 52Kg/60Kg rail on PSC sleeper with Elastic fastenings including increasing the ballast cushion with deep screening & recoumpent of ballast from the existing standard in the section of ADEN/PTA under Sr.DEN-II.UMB	93,12,567	1,86,300	04 Months	23.01.2025	
5	Provision of covered shed on existing LHS/Subway in lieu of L-xing no. 134-A/C & 139 on UMB - LDH section in the section of ADEN/RPJ under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-IV/UMB.	1,73,26,830	2,36,600	04 Months	23.01.2025	
6	Annual Repair, white washing and painting of staff quarters & service buildings alongwith hiring of skilled and unskilled labour under Zone RPAR (incl) to DLPC (incl) section for the 2024-25 in the section of SSE/Works/NLDm under ADEN/SIR.	99,99,999	2,00,000	06 Months	23.01.2025	

1. Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions.

2. The required Bid Security will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking/or Payment Gateway payment only

3. Tenderers should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in e-Tendering of works tenders.

4. For detail, please log on IREPS website www.IREPS.gov.in

5. GST will be levied as per GST Act. 2017

Open Tender Notice No.: NIT-53/UMB-2024-25 Dated : 31.12.2024

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BRIEFLY

HYDERABAD
Bengal beat Kerala 1-0 to win Santosh Trophy for 33rd time
West Bengal extended their supremacy in the National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy with a 1-0 win over Kerala in the summit showdown, claiming the title for an unprecedented 33rd time. Robi Hansda scored the only goal of the match in the added-time of the second half.

DUBAI
Deepthi jumps to fifth spot in ICC ODI rankings
India off-spinner Deepthi Sharma climbed a spot to enter the top-5 in the latest ICC women's ODI ranking for bowlers following her match-winning performances in the recently-concluded series against the West Indies at home. Deepthi, who is fifth now, has 665 rating points and is marginally behind fourth-placed South Africa's Marizanne Kapp (677 points).

BRISBANE
Djokovic, Sabalenka win, Pericard aces Kyrgios test
Novak Djokovic and Aryana Sabalenka began their season with straight-set wins but Nick Kyrgios' return to singles action did not go according to his plans at the Brisbane International. Djokovic tamed local favourite Rinky Hijikata 6-3 6-3. Earlier, Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard fired 36 aces to beat Kyrgios 7-6(2) 6-7(4) 7-6(3). Women's world No. 1 Sabalenka sent an ominous warning on her season debut with a 6-4 6-0 demolition of Renata Zarazua. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

HIL
BENGAL VS GONASIK
SONY TEN 8:15PM

EPL
BRENTFORD VS ARSENAL
STAR SPORTS 11PM

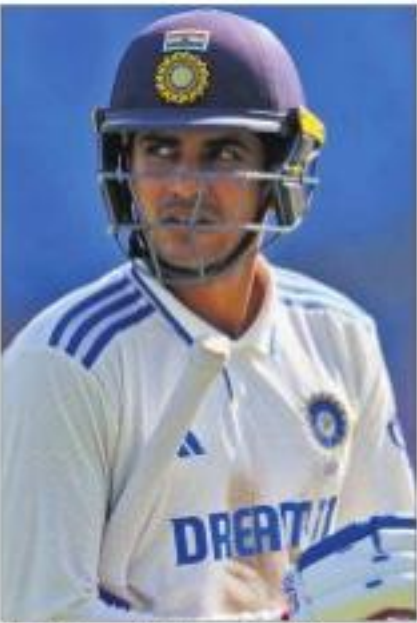
With India's batting struggling, Shubman could return to side for do-or-die final Test

Finding balance



Skipper Rohit Sharma has scored just 31 runs in five innings; BELOW: Shubman Gill was dropped for the Melbourne Test to include all-rounder Washington Sundar. FILE

The SCG has traditionally been a track that assists spinners as the match progresses and hence either Washington or Tanush Kotian is certain to play alongside Ravindra Jadeja, unless the skipper develops sudden faith in Jaiswal's leg-breaks and decides to a play the specialist batter (Gill) and not the batting all-rounder (Washington). The Adelaide Test, played under lights with the pink Kookaburra, presented the Indian team with the most challenging circumstances and Gill, with scores of 31 and 28, looked way more comfortable than both



Rohit and Virat Kohli. The second option could be more convenient and it involves dropping one among Mohammed Siraj and Akash Deep to include

Gill as three specialist pacers could be a luxury at the SCG with Jadeja and Washington expected to bowl more overs than in Melbourne. Siraj redeemed himself with a fine spell in Melbourne while Akash Deep was distinctly unlucky to get just one wicket across two innings. The third option is the most inconvenient one but perhaps the need of the hour too if Rohit wants to lead by example. With just 31 runs in five innings and 155 runs in the last 14 knocks, the skipper could himself volunteer to step aside and let Gill play, with

Bumrah named captain of CA's Test team of year

SYDNEY, DECEMBER 31
Jasprit Bumrah was on Tuesday recognised for his splendid performances in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as Cricket Australia named the Indian pace spearhead as the captain of its Test team of the year, which also features Yashasvi Jaiswal. Bumrah has been the best bowler in Test cricket in 2024 with 71 wickets from 13 matches at an average of 14.92 and a strike rate of 30.16.



Jasprit Bumrah and Yashasvi Jaiswal are the only Indians named in Cricket Australia's Test team of the year. FILE

"One of the greatest calendar years by a bowler ever; not since Dale Steyn's 74-wicket 2008 has a pace bowler been as prolific and not since Imran Khan's 1982 (62 victims at 13.29) has one taken them at a better rate," CA, the game's governing body in the country, said of Bumrah. "Yes, he has torched Australia amid of the greatest tours by a visiting quick of all-time, but he also cleaned up England with 19 poles in four Tests on unhelpful home surfaces as every other seamer went around the park. As the only member of this side to have skippered their team in 2024 (leading India to victory in Perth) Bumrah also gets the captaincy reins - a job he could well see more of in future," CA added. The peerless fast bowler has been the best bowler in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy with 30 wickets in just four Tests. Jaiswal has been picked as the opener for his exploits with the bat in the year. Jaiswal finished the year as the second-highest scorer with 1,478 runs from 15 matches (29 innings) at an average of 54.74 with nine fifties and three centuries. For Jaiswal, CA wrote,



"India's bright young batting star was only 22 for all but four days of 2024 but played with the composure and class of a veteran. Jaiswal's back-to-back double centuries in February ensured a home Test series win for India over England, while the left-hander's stunning 161 in Perth was also decisive. His runs tally is the most by an Indian opener in a calendar year and his 36 sixes is a new worldwide benchmark for a calendar year." — PTI

Haryana's Sagar soars to new heights in javelin

DEEPANKAR SHARDA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 31
Returning to the field after a five-month gap due to an injury, javelin thrower Sagar stunned everyone at the All India Inter University Athletics Meet in Bhubaneswar with a gold medal winning effort of 80.82 metres. The Haryana athlete, representing Patiala's Punjabi University, missed breaking Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra's meet record by just 0.22m. In 2015, Chopra had set the meet record with a throw of 81.04m. The 23-year-old Sagar, who is participating in his third inter university meet, had last participated in the Khelo India Games in February. "Breaking the record was never my aim. I was aiming for the gold medal but the javelin just felt perfect coming out of my hand. Before it landed, I knew it was going to be my personal best," said Sagar, who last marked a throw of 71m in the Khelo India Games. "It was after receiving the gold medal I came to know about missing the record by a whisker. Nevertheless, I will



Sagar with coach Dharminder Chahal after winning the javelin gold medal in the All India Inter University Athletics Meet.

Mumbai's Mhatre youngest to score 150 in List A cricket

AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 31
Ayush Mhatre on Tuesday set a new world record for the youngest player to get a 150-plus score in List A cricket during Mumbai's Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Nagaland, bettering compatriot Yashasvi Jaiswal's effort. At 17 years and 168 days, Mhatre broke the previous record of Jaiswal, who was 17 years and 291 days when he achieved the feat while playing for Mumbai against Nagaland in 2019, according to MCA. Mhatre, who made his debut for domestic giants Mumbai earlier this season, clobbered 11 sixes and 15 fours to make 181 off only 117 balls while powering his side to 403/7 in 50 overs. — PTI



Ayush Mhatre made 181 off only 117 balls for Mumbai.

Ananya bags maiden senior air rifle gold



Meghana Sajjanar, Ananya Naidu and Narmada Nithin. NRAI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31
Maharashtra's Ananya Naidu won her maiden senior women's 10m air rifle gold medal after staving off a late charge from Meghana Sajjanar. Naidu stood top of the podium after totalling 252.5 in the finals of the ongoing 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions in Bhopal on Tuesday. Naidu's final tally was a mere 0.2 more than the more experienced Sajjanar, who was representing the Railways. The bronze medal was won by Tamil Nadu's Narmada Nithin, who finished with a score of 231.3 points. In the final, Naidu led the

field with 1.4 points after the first five shots but while she led the 24-shot final, it became a close fight between her and Sajjanar during the final stages. Both Naidu and Sajjanar tallied 20.6 points in the last two shots. In the junior women's competition, Gautami Bhanot won the gold medal with a score of 251.5 points followed by Mayuri Pawar. They were both tied at 168.0 points at one stage in the final but Gautami edged with a score of 21.6 in the next two shots to Mayuri's 20.5 to regain the lead. The bronze was won by Disha Dhankar after she tallied 229.9 points. — TNS

Vaishali enters quarters of blitz, others fade away

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
RAPID AND BLITZ

NEWYORK, DECEMBER 31
Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali surprised herself with a stellar performance to enter the quarterfinals of the World Blitz Championship here, even as recently-crowned rapid champion Koneru Humpy made an early exit. Following Humpy's stellar performance in rapid, which earned her the gold medal and a prize of \$60,000, it was Vaishali's turn to impress her fans. She scored 9.5 points out of a possible 11 to top the qualifying round. "I'm very happy with today's performance. Tomorrow will be a big day. Honestly, (the performance) was completely unexpected. I was not expecting the result like how it went today. Tomorrow, I have to be ready and prepare well and then see," she said. Russian Kateryna Lagno came closest to Vaishali, scoring 8.5 points, while the



R Vaishali scored 9.5 points to top the qualifying round. FILE

remaining six qualifiers finished with an identical eight points. Despite meeting the points criteria, Humpy was eliminated due to the worst tiebreaker, finishing ninth. In the quarterfinal, Vaishali will face Chinese Grandmaster Zhu Jiner. In the open section, 10 players were tied for first place, including world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen. Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi won the qualifier with 9.5 points, benefiting from the best tiebreak, while Fabi-

ano Caruana of the United States finished second, ahead of Carlsen, who was placed third. Surprisingly, none of the Indians made the top-eight. Arjun Erigaisi played brilliantly at the start, securing victories in the first five rounds, but faded away to finish with a sub-par seven points. R Praggnanandhaa was the best-placed Indian, with 8.5 points, but a last-round loss to Russian Daniil Dubov cost him a spot in the quarterfinals. — PTI

Manchester United lose again as Ipswich upset Chelsea

LONDON, DECEMBER 31
Alexander Isak scored for the sixth straight Premier League game as Newcastle beat Manchester United 2-0 at Old Trafford to condemn Ruben Amorim's side to their worst home run in the top tier since the 1970s. Relegation-threatened Ipswich beat Chelsea 2-0 to win at home for the first time this season, and Aston Villa and Brighton drew 2-2. Newcastle's commanding display marked the first time since February 1979 that Man United have lost three home league games in a row. It is also the first time since 1962

that United have lost five league matches in the same calendar month. Isak started the misery for home fans with his eighth goal in six matches. The Sweden striker put Newcastle ahead with a header after four minutes and Joelsonton doubled their lead 15 minutes later when he rose above Lisandro Martinez to head in a second. The defeat was the fifth in eight league games since Amorim joined from Sporting Lisbon in November. Chelsea started the day with the best away record in the

league after leaders Liverpool but they were trailing at Portman Road after just 12 minutes thanks to a mistake from goalkeeper Filip Jorgensen. The Scandinavian fouled Liam Delap in the box and Delap got up to convert the penalty with aplomb. Chelsea pushed forward in search of an equaliser but it was Ipswich that doubled their lead early in the second half. A poor pass from Axel Disasi allowed Delap to stretch the Chelsea defence and his pass set up Omari Hutchinson to score against his former club. — AP



Newcastle United's Alexander Isak scores their first goal against Manchester United. REUTERS

Quad reaffirms commitment to stable, peaceful Indo-Pacific

Four nations issue joint statement to mark 20 yrs of regional cooperation

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31

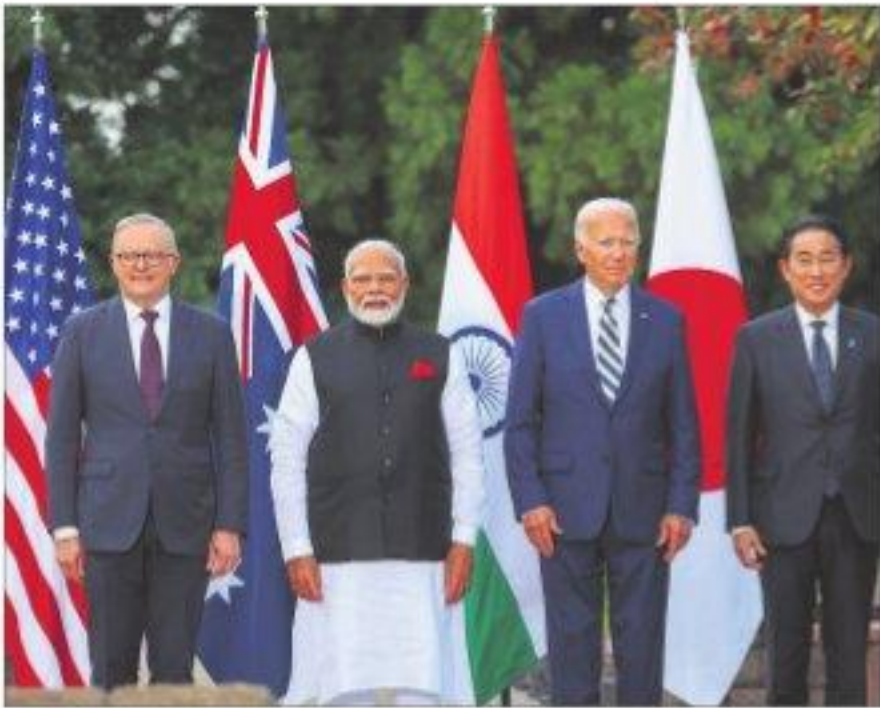
Twenty years after India, the US, Australia and Japan first collaborated as an emergency response to the Indian Ocean tsunami, the four nations — now known as the Quadrilateral or Quad — on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the region's future needs.

The foreign ministers of the member nations of the grouping made the pledge in a joint statement commemorating the 20th anniversary of "Quad cooperation".

The four countries came together 20 years ago to extend assistance in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami on December 26 that year, and that coalition subsequently took form of the Quad.

The partnership, which began as a crisis-response mechanism, has since evolved into a comprehensive collaboration delivering tangible benefits for the region.

In the last few years, the Quad has rolled out a number of initiatives addressing some of the most pressing needs and challenges of the Indo-Pacific region, including in areas of maritime security, infrastruc-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with leaders of other three Quad members — the US, Australia and Japan. FILE

QUAD STANDS AS A VITAL FORCE FOR STABILITY

“The idea of the Quad began with a shared response to the Indian Ocean tsunami. Today, the Quad stands as a vital force for stability, progress and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.” S Jaishankar, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

ture and connectivity.

India is scheduled to host the next Quad Summit that is likely to take place in the second half of 2025.

The statement read: “The Quad is committed to working together in responding to the future needs of the region.”

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar posted on X, stating, “The idea of the Quad

structure development, maritime security, STEM education, counter-terrorism, emerging technologies and cybersecurity.

Since 2021, the leaders of the four countries have convened annually to advance the Quad's agenda and bolster its contributions to South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The statement said, “As four partners, we share a vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific that is peaceful, stable and prosperous, underpinned by effective regional institutions.”

In diplomatic terms, the phrase “free and open Indo-Pacific” is widely understood as an indirect challenge to China's dominance in the South China Sea.

The statement also reaffirmed the Quad's “unwavering support” for ASEAN centrality and unity, along with the implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, it reiterated the Quad's respect for Pacific-led regional framework, particularly the Pacific Islands Forum.

As part of their ongoing efforts, the Quad nations are now addressing cybersecurity threats, enhancing cyber resilience and intensifying efforts to combat climate change.

began with a shared response to the Indian Ocean tsunami. Today, the Quad stands as a vital force for stability, progress and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.”

The Quad nations now collaborate with partners across the Indo-Pacific to tackle a wide array of challenges, including climate change, public health crisis, infra-

Army, Navy, IAF Chiefs to get ADCs from each other's services

AJAY BANERJEE

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31

In a significant administrative reform aimed at enhancing jointness within the armed forces, the personal staff officers, known as Aides-de-Camp (ADCs), to the Chiefs of the Army, Navy and the Air Force will now be appointed from services other than their own. This change, effective from January 1, has been voluntary accepted by the three service chiefs, symbolising a commitment to inter-service integration.

Previously, service chiefs selected their ADCs from within their own

Initiative aimed at cultivating jointness in the armed forces

branches, often choosing officers from units with which they had a special connection. The new arrangement, part of a comprehensive 200-point reform agenda outlined by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, represents a modest yet meaningful step towards fostering jointness among the services.

The role of an ADC is pivotal, encompassing the management of the chief's

daily affairs, attendance at official events and meetings, scheduling, correspondence and various administrative tasks. Assigning ADCs from different services is expected to promote a deeper understanding and cooperation across the branches, reinforcing the integrated approach essential for modern military operations.

A special Joint Division has been established at the Defence Services Staff College to encourage collaborative and inter-service approaches to warfare, emphasising the importance of integration and mutual understanding.

India-Nepal joint military exercise begins

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31

The 18th edition of the India-Nepal joint military exercise, ‘Surya Kiran’, commenced at Saljhandi, Nepal, on Tuesday. The two-week-long exercise involves an infantry battalion each from the Indian Army and the Nepali army, aiming to enhance interoperability and exchange expertise in unconventional warfare, including counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations, as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

A traditional opening ceremony marked the start of the exercise, with both contingents marching in unison to Indian and Nepali military tunes.

Addressing the gathering, Maj Gen Prem Bahadur Gurung, Commander of the Mid-West Division of the Nepali Army, urged the participants to learn from each other's extensive experiences, foster interoperability and strengthen the ties between the two nations.

The Indian Army contingent arrived at Saljhandi on December 29, where they were welcomed with a traditional military reception. Around 700 defence personnel from both armies are participating in the event.

Bhagat Singh Gallery in Pakistan Punjab opened for tourists

LAHORE, DECEMBER 31

The government in Pakistan's Punjab has opened the Bhagat Singh Gallery at the historical Poonch House here, where the freedom fighter's trial was conducted around 93 years ago.

The gallery houses historical documents, including pictures, letters, newspapers, details of the trial and other memorial articles related to his life and contributions to the freedom struggle.

Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman inaugurated the gallery on Monday. “Tourists will have access to the gallery under an agreement between the departments of industry, commerce and tourism of the Punjab government,” Zaman said. He further said that the historical building of Poonch House had been restored to its original form.

Singh, 23, was hanged by British rulers on March 23, 1931, in Lahore, after being tried under charges for hatching a conspiracy against the colonial government. Pakistan's Punjab Archives Department dis-

Freedom fighter's trial was held at Poonch House 93 years ago

played records of the legendary freedom fighter's case file, including his execution certificate, letters, photographs and newspaper clippings and other material, for the first time in 2018.

The record, which was put on display, included Singh's request for providing the court order dated August 27, 1930, and his petition dated May 31, 1929, for the interview of his father.

It also contained a petition of his father, Sardar Kishan Singh, against the death sentence of his son and the certificate of the execution of his death in Lahore district jail by the superintendent of jail, dated March 23, 1931.

The records further include Bhagat Singh's petition for allowing him daily newspapers and books, and some other records related to the manifesto of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha Lahore by BC Vohra and several clippings of the daily VIRBHARAT. — PTI

I-T Dept extends deadline for filing revised returns

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 31

The Income Tax Department on Tuesday extended the last date for filing belated or revised return for the 2023-24 fiscal to January 15. The last date for filing revised return for Assessment Year (AY) 2024-25 (2023-24 fiscal) was earlier December 31.

“The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) extends the last date for furnishing belated/revised return of income for AY 2024-25 in the case of resident individuals from December 31, 2024, to January 15, 2025,” the I-T Department said on X. — PTI

Four workers killed in fire at Surat steel plant

SURAT, DECEMBER 31

Four workers were killed and another one was injured in a fire at a steel plant in Hazira industrial area in Gujarat's Surat on Tuesday evening, officials said. The incident occurred at ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India's, Surat Commissioner of Police Anupam Singh Gehlot said.

“We have learnt that the fire spread in one section of the plant after burning coal suddenly spilled over. The resultant blaze killed four labourers, who were on a lift at that time in the plant,” he said. — PTI



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